

51. Designations for Appointment of the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and District Chairs

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 51/1. The Conference designated for appointment Deacon Karen McBride as Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.**
- 51/2. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Anne E Brown as Chair for the Leeds District for a period of one year from 1 September 2016.**
- 51/3. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr David M Chapman as Chair for the Bedfordshire, Essex, Hertfordshire District for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.**

The following resolutions require a majority of 75%.

- 51/4. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Paul Martin as Chair for the Bolton and Rochdale District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2017.**
- 51/5. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Bruce D Thompson as Chair for the Lincolnshire District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2017.**
- 51/6. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood as Chair for the Southampton District for a further period of five years from 1 September 2017.**
- 51/7. The Conference designated for appointment the Revd Dr Roger L Walton as Chair for the West Yorkshire District for a further period of two years from 1 September 2017.**

Reasoned Statements

Deacon Karen McBride

Karen McBride began circuit ministry in 1995, after working in various social work settings and initial training. She served first in the Manchester and Salford Mission Circuit and then in the newly formed Manchester Circuit. Following an appointment in the Tower Hamlets Circuit Karen responded to the needs of the Methodist Diaconal Order and in 2009 became Pastoral Secretary of the Order, taking on the role of Deputy Warden in 2014. In each of these appointments, and in all that the church has asked of her, she has shown herself to be naturally collaborative and consultative. Her ministry in Local Churches, in diverse communities, and to individuals has been undertaken with sensitivity and with a deep commitment to the unique value of each individual. As Deputy Warden of the MDO, Karen has consistently offered exceptional pastoral care to both members of the Order and to the wider church. All of her actions are informed by honesty, integrity and generosity. Karen is deeply aware of and sensitive to issues of equality, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of her life and work.

A common thread that runs through the diversity of each of her appointments is that she seeks to model through her own life and ministry what it is to be a servant of Christ. At every turn and in each context Karen is able and willing to address difficult issues with grace and sensitivity.

Karen is attentive to the MDO Rule of Life and seeks to live within a rhythm of prayerful attention to all of her varied commitments. Karen has a depth of spirituality, which enables and sustains her life and work.

In addition to her extensive knowledge of the Methodist Church, gained from her significant experience and diverse engagement with its processes, Karen has also participated in the Worldwide Federation of Diaconal communities 'Diakonia' in European and African contexts. She is a member of the Methodist Church Faith and Order Committee and has contributed to several significant working parties, including the ecumenical Windsor report on the Diaconate in 1998-2001. Karen is currently acting as a consultant to the working party on the theology and ecclesiology of the diaconate. She is very able to engage in theological dialogue on matters of mission and ministry, and particularly diaconal ministry.

Karen will bring to the role of Warden her customary quiet, confident, and secure sense of presence. This will be of very great benefit to the Diaconal Order and to the wider Connexion.

The Convocation of the Methodist Diaconal Order recommends to the Conference that Karen McBride be appointed to serve as Warden for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Anne E Brown

Anne Brown has been Chair of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District since 2006. Prior to that she was Chair of the London North West District from 2002-2006. She held circuit appointments in Rossendale (Bolton and Rochdale District) and in Barnsley (Sheffield District) where she was Superintendent Minister from the third year of her six-year appointment to that Circuit. She served as Synod Secretary of the Sheffield District from 1997-2002.

As District Chair, Anne was involved in the reorganisation that led to a large part of the London North West District becoming part of the current London District, and the creation of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District. From her nomination as Chair of Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire in November 2005 she describes with enthusiasm the experience of preparing for the official launch of the District in September 2006, from creating essential district structures and systems to the on-going work of nurturing the gifts of lay and ordained and developing ecumenical relationships to create a sense of identity and to enable mission and growth.

At this time of change the Leeds District and the region are already committed to responding in a creative and locally relevant way to the 'Larger than Circuit' conversations. Anne will bring energy, pastoral care and sensitivity, practical experience of managing significant change, strategic vision, a proven ability to identify future opportunities and priorities, and connected-ness to this process. The Leeds District sees this appointment as being the catalyst for change which will provide the District with skilled leadership and support as work is undertaken regionally and wider to discern the structures and people/roles needed at district level from 2017 onwards to continue to enable mission and ministry within the Circuits and local contexts.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that Anne Brown be appointed to serve as Chair of the Leeds District for a period of one year from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Dr David M Chapman

David Chapman is an experienced minister and theologian. He is currently a superintendent in the Central Sussex United Area and has been a presbyter for over 20 years. He has previously served in the Dorking and Horsham and Wimbledon Circuits.

David brings a wealth of experience in ecumenical matters being currently involved with local ecumenical partnerships with URC, Baptist and Church of England churches. He is currently the co-chair alongside a URC colleague for the Central Sussex United Area and co-chair of the World Methodist Council's Methodist-Roman Catholic dialogue commission.

David is a skilled communicator both in writing and public speaking, a confident and gifted preacher who is an organised and efficient administrator whilst still being responsive and ready to listen to those with pastoral concerns. He chairs meetings in an open and democratic way and displays tact and sensitivity when dealing with matters of disagreement.

Within his current Circuit, David is involved in the pilot scheme for ministerial supervision. He has experience of supervising probationer ministers and has been line manager for two youth workers.

David is looking forward to sharing in and further developing the District's vision for the future. He is excited about, and committed to, growing the church of God by encouraging appropriate small groups (particularly bible study and house groups) to enable congregations to discern what it means to be 'church' in the twenty-first century by drawing on the richness (and diversity) of the Christian tradition in fresh ways that are relevant to the contemporary context.

David brings considerable experience of working at connexional level and within the world church and will bring a clear vision to the District of both how important our Methodist identity is but also what it means to belong to the universal Church.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that David Chapman be appointed to serve as Chair for the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District for a period of six years from 1 September 2016.

The Revd Bruce D Thompson

Bruce Thompson has served as Chair of the Lincolnshire District since 2011. The District finds Bruce to be a leader who can think strategically and inspire others. He has ably led the District's Toward 20:20 vision. His monthly Insight days are an invaluable help in inspiring preachers; he will bring continuity in completing the introduction of the District Local Church Pastor scheme which has become a real blessing to the District.

The District recognises and values Bruce's passionate engagement with big issues on behalf of the District and the ecumenical lead he brings to the county. Ecumenical and inter faith partners appreciate his ministry as District Chair.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Bruce Thompson be extended for a period of five years from 1 September 2017.

The Revd Paul Martin (A)

Paul Martin has served as Chair of the Bolton and Rochdale District since 2011.

The District greatly appreciates Paul's gifts of encouragement, his warmth and approachability, thoughtfulness and sensitivity, welcome and generosity, and ability to listen well to others. His sense of humour often helps to defuse and calm challenging situations. His knowledge of the District is considerable. Paul has a consultative and inclusive approach to leadership. His support for Circuits going through particular difficulties is much valued. He is felt to represent the District well connexionally, and is well regarded by ecumenical colleagues and regional Chairs.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Paul Martin be extended for a period of five years from 1 September 2017.

The Revd Dr Roger L Walton

Roger Walton has served as Chair of the West Yorkshire District since 2011. Roger has good personal skills, shown in his ability to listen and reflect, discern as well as encourage, enable and facilitate the gifts of others. He is patient and wise in difficult and sensitive situations.

Roger's leadership is quiet but firm and perceptive, cultivating a mood that encourages and enables others to take initiative and develop new work.

Roger's teaching, worship and preaching is engaging, reflective and challenging, undergirded by a wealth of experience, understanding and depth of spirituality. Roger's enthusiasm for and commitment to ecumenical and inter-faith working is a key factor in building and sustaining genuine relationships. Roger's presence offers a consistency of leadership in West Yorkshire – his contribution is critical to any future configuration of the Yorkshire Region, and also to the continued development of the Touchstone project and its new premises. Roger is a significant connexional colleague. As a published author he also feeds the wider church through writing with clarity and vision.

The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Roger Walton be extended for a period of two years from 1 September 2017.

The Revd Dr Andrew D Wood

Andrew Wood has served as District Chair for the Southampton District since 2006. The District believes that Andrew is the right person in the right place to offer strategic leadership to the District, and, through a consultation process, this was confirmed by other groups beyond the District.

Andrew is seen as a person of vision and compassion who has a heart for the Kingdom. He is a willing listener but is not afraid to speak the truth in love. With those particular skills he combines the qualities of a first rate leader. Andrew is described as being an excellent ambassador for our Church. The Synod recommends to the Conference that the appointment of Andrew Wood be extended for a period of five years from 1 September 2017.