

Singing the faith – reconfiguring the Music Resources Group

Basic Information

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Approval
Draft Resolution	Council approves the terms of reference and additional names for the reconfigured Music Resources Group
Alternative Options	N/a

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	Details of the reconfiguration of the Music Resources Group to make it fit for purpose for the next phase of its work.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Additional names for the core collection groups • Groups for the core collection • Rolling resource
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<p>Conference 2009 – <i>Singing the Faith – The Music Resources Group report</i>.</p> <p>Following a number of reports to previous Conferences, a draft list of hymns and songs proposed for authorisation was published in January 2009 for wide comment.</p> <p>Conference 2009 considered the outcomes of the survey and a detailed costing exercise, and also a number of memorials and NOMs on the report. After a thorough debate, Conference affirmed its wish for the work to continue, and delegated authority to the officers named above to reconfigure the MRG for the next phase.</p>
Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Resources Group • Secretary to the Faith and Order Committee

Summary of Impact

Standing Orders	
Faith and Order	Already involved
Financial	Detailed costings already shown to Conference and budgeted within the Connexional Team workplan
Personnel	Budgeted within existing staff capacity or outsourced options
Legal	Copyright issues fully considered
Wider Connexional	Fully discussed at Conference
External (e.g. ecumenical)	Discussed at Conference
Risk	Discussed at Conference – this reconfiguration is deemed necessary to address the complex tasks of the next stage.

Singing the Faith – reconfiguring the Music Resources Group

1. Background

1.i Conference 2009 authorised the MRG, in consultation with the Methodist Council and the Faith and Order Committee to continue its work of preparing a new authorised collection of hymns and songs for Methodist worship in succession to *Hymns and Psalms* and to present a full list of contents for approval to the Conference of 2010. (35/2). It also adopted a set of criteria to determine inclusion and exclusion in this collection (35/3).

This report addresses the process by which the core collection will now be progressed.

1.ii It also authorised MRG in consultation with the Methodist Council and the Faith and Order Committee to prepare a rolling resource of commended material and/or regularly updated online resources of topical and contemporary material that have been submitted or commissioned for them; and directs the group to bring proposals to the Methodist Council for an appropriate timetable for this in the light of the above resolutions (35/4)

A timetable, terms of reference and names for the group engaged with the rolling resource and website will be brought to a future meeting of the Council.

1.iii Conference also delegated authority to the Chair of the Music Resources Group, the Secretary for Internal Relationships and the Head of Christian Communication, Evangelism and Advocacy cluster to reconfigure the Music Resources Group to make it fit for purpose to fulfil these tasks to the agreed timetable and to bring the names and details to the September 2009 meeting of the Council (DR 8/19).

Details of the requested reconfiguration now completed are below.

2. The reconfigured Music Resources Group

Overall Chair of group: Barbara Bircumshaw

2.i The reconfiguration has now taken place in regard to the core collection, and is in hand with regard to the parallel project comprising the rolling resource and website. In reconfiguring the group, due regard has been paid to the structure needed for the specific tasks of the next stage, and particular themes or concerns which were raised during the Conference debate.

2.ii The MRG is now structured as a community of focused groups as described below. The whole collection of individuals now engaged in this enterprise (i.e. all members of the working groups as listed below) is regarded as a resource and individuals may be called on for:

- consultation as required (normally by email, but in person if a 'congregation' is required e.g. to test a hymn arrangement)
- research, editing etc. as required, for example where new gaps are identified
- marketing the resource and training others in its use.

2.iii The following new individuals have been appointed. (All the other names and reasoned statements have already been brought before the Conference). One member of MRG has stepped down at this point.

Peter Brophy OBE (Editor in chief/project manager). Formerly Professor of Information Management at Manchester Metropolitan University, outgoing Chair of the mph Board in its final year. Local Preacher.

Revd Michaela Youngson (Content Selection Group and Devotional Resource Group).
Superintendent minister in the Ealing Trinity circuit, writer and liturgist.

Paul Leddington Wright (Music Arrangements Group) Freelance musician, formerly directed the
MAYC Orchestra, one of the principal arrangers and directors for BBC Songs of Praise.

Nicola Morrison (Music Arrangements Group) Ordinand at Wesley House Cambridge,
composer/arranger.

Carole Richmond (Production and Marketing Group) Methodist Publishing Manager in the
Connexional Team.

Suzanne Johnson (Production and Marketing Group) Marketing Cordinator in the Connexional
Team.

Andrew Moore (Production and Marketing Group). Member of the Strategy and Resources
Committee. Formerly Chief Executive at Hymns Ancient and Modern.

3. Core Collection

3.i Editor in chief/project manager: Peter Brophy
*Responsible for project management and coordination. Takes final responsibility for the selection
that is offered to Conference 2010 for authorisation.*

3. ii Groups

1. Content Selection Group

Responsible for

- dialogue and agreement with the Faith and Order Committee
- decisions about all contents
- the list to be presented to Conference 2010 for authorisation

Members

Peter Brophy (chair)
Alan Bolton
Ian Howarth
Paul Wood
Kavula John
Michaela Youngson
Emma Parker
Ruth Horton
John Alderdice

2. Devotional Resource Group

Responsible for

- considering the draft collection as a devotional resource
- making recommendations about the inclusion of psalms
- making recommendations about the inclusion of prayer texts
- making recommendations about the inclusion of notes that will assist the reader in using
the collection in this way.

Members

Norman Wallwork (chair)
Michaela Youngson
Marjorie Dobson

3. Appendices, Indexes and Notes Group

Responsible for

- devising and recommending appropriate indexes (Scriptural, thematic etc)
- devising and recommending appropriate appendices
- devising and recommending appropriate notes.

Members

Ian Worsfold (chair)

Philip Poynor

4. Music Arrangements Group

Responsible for

- ensuring that all the musical arrangements selected are suitable in all ways to the texts they accompany
- ensuring that all arrangements are both playable and singable by Methodists in ordinary worship contexts
- supplying arrangements in suitable form to the Production Group
- copy-editing and proof checking the draft printed and other versions.

Members

Martin Clarke (chair)

Ian Howarth

Paul Wood

Ian Worsfold

Nicola Morrison

5. Production and marketing

Responsible for

- all aspects of publishing the collection in the full music version, text only and CD Rom (text only) formats
- negotiation an outsourcing operation with an appropriate publisher
- undertaking the marketing plan for the resource
- solving practical aspects of the publishing plan
- bringing to the editor in chief any matters that will affect the whole selection.

Members

Peter Brophy (chair)

Carole Richmond

Suzanne Johnson

Martin Clarke

Andrew Moore

Barbara Bircumshaw

4. Rolling resource/website

Further names currently being invited by the overall chair of MRG with respect to this group will be brought to a future meeting of the Council. Revd Andrew Pratt has been invited to chair this group.