

Caversham Heights Methodist Church

The Constitution of the Church Council

The Church Council, as defined by CPD¹ in S.O. 610, includes three classes of members:

1. Those whose membership is *ex officio*, i.e. arises from some church appointment that they hold, whether external (the Minister and a Circuit Steward) or internal (such as the Church Treasurer);
2. Not less than six, and not more than fifteen members elected annually by the General Church Meeting;
3. Not more than fifteen members appointed by the Church Council itself "to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership" (S.O.610 (xi)).

At Caversham Heights a further subdivision is brought into play, relating to the officers of the church, ranging from Church Stewards through to the organised of the Flower Rota.

Group A: The principal officers of the church (Church Stewards, Church Treasurer, Pastoral Committee Secretary, Church Council Secretary) are defined by S.O.610 as *ex officio* members of the Church Council

Group B: the Church Council has resolved that certain of the other offices within the life of the church are so important that the holders of these offices should as a matter of routine be appointed by the Church Council itself.

Group C: all the other church officers.

In terms of membership of the Church Council, Group A officers are members by virtue of offices held under class 1 (*ex officio* members), while Group B officers are routinely appointed by the Church Council to augment its membership. The Church Council may also appoint further members (up to the maximum of fifteen) to ensure that appropriate representative persons who do not actually hold office, may nevertheless contribute to the work of the Council.

Thus we may set out the constitution of the Church Council in terms of four lists rather than three, as follows:

1. Those whose membership is *ex officio*, i.e. arises from some church appointment that they hold, whether external (the Minister and a Circuit Steward) or internal (such as the Church Treasurer);

¹ The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, published annually by Order of the Methodist Conference. Book III of CPD is set out as a series of Standing Orders (S.O.s)

2. Officers in Group B, appointed by the Church Council
3. Not less than six, and not more than fifteen members elected annually by the General Church Meeting;
4. Further members up to the maximum of fifteen appointed by the Church Council itself "to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership" (S.O.610 (xi)).

Please note that we have switched lists 2 and 3 around, so that everyone who is on CC by reason of an office held is in list 1 or 2. List 3 is of those elected by the General Church Meeting (annually in April), while list 4 is under the control of the Church Council itself and can be varied at any time.

Nothing should be inferred from the composition of lists 2 and 4 that might suggest a distinction of importance between them. It is important that the opportunities offered by lists 2, 3 and 4 be exploited to the full, in order to ensure a strong and vigorous Church Council. Persons who are already members by virtue of lists 1 and 2 should not be considered for election by the General Church Meeting under list 3. Likewise, in making appointments under list 4, the church council should not appoint persons who already have a place by virtue of lists 1, 2 and 3.

Membership of the Church Council 2007-8

The projected membership of the Church Council as we approach the 2008 General Church Meeting may then be set out as follows.

1 Ex Officio Members

Minister in Pastoral Charge

Minister appointed to the section

Deacon appointed to the section

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Steward

Church Treasurer

Pastoral Secretary

2 Officers appointed by the Church Council

Faith Co-ordinator
Worship Co-ordinator
Fellowship Co-ordinator
Resourcing Co-ordinator
Mission Co-ordinator
Stewards' Co-ordinator
Retiring Steward
Publicity Director
Local Preacher
Sunday Starters Leader
Church Correspondent
YP Representative
Safeguarding Co-ordinator
CTC Representative
Zambia Twinning
total of 10

3 Elected by the General Church Meeting (between 6 and 15 inclusive)

Janet Birks
Clive Seiling
June Harper
Claire Leckie
Judith Higgs
Dennis Tutty
Peter Watkins
David Cliffe
Ena Horner
Chris Nicholls
Ken Macrae

4 Co-opted by the Church Council (up to 15 in all, including the 10 in list 2)

Janet Birks