

Paper J1

Nominations

Nominations Committee





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Basic Information

Contact name and email address	Carol Rogers, secretary carannrog@aol.com
Action required	For information
Draft resolution(s)	
Alternative options to consider, if any	

Summary of Content

Subject and aim(s)	Update
Main points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notification of the appointment of the Revd Neil Thorogood as Principal of Westminster College. 2. Notification of names to be brought to Assembly for appointment to service on committees. 3. Request for Mission Council guidance on the matter of extensions of appointments of committee conveners and members.
Previous relevant documents	
Consultation has taken place with...	

Summary of Impact

Financial	
External (e.g. ecumenical)	

Nominations

1. Westminster College Principal

The appointment group convened by the Revd Pauline Barnes appointed the Revd Neil Thorogood as Principal of Westminster College, Cambridge. Neil is currently the director of pastoral studies at Westminster, a post he has held since 2005. Before training for ministry he studied the geography of Africa and the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, and taught English in Taiwan for two years. Ordained in 1992, he has served churches in Halifax and Welwyn Garden City. While working as a local minister in Halifax, he studied for an MA in Contextual Missiology.

2.. The following conveners have agreed to extend their terms of service:

- i) **International Exchange Reference Group:** Mr Chris Wright until 2016.
- ii) **Retired Ministers Housing Trust:** The Revd David Bedford until 2016

These names will be taken to General Assembly for appointment.

Replies are awaited to invitations to serve as Convener-Elect of the following committees:

Listed Buildings Advisory Group
 Education and Learning
 Disciplinary Process Commission Panel Deputy Convener
 URC Pensions Trust Ltd
 Westminster College Board of Governors

Replies are awaited to invitations to fill immediate vacancies on:

Church House Management Group
 Communication and Editorial Committee: (2 vacancies)
 Education and Learning

3. Extensions to Service

In recent months we have received a number of requests asking for extensions to individuals' periods of service as members or conveners of committees. Apart from the question of whether or not our committee has the authority to agree to any such diversions from the norm laid down by General Assembly, we have recognised that these invariably reasonable requests themselves raise questions about how well as a Church we operate our committee system. At this point we would simply like to put down a marker, so that Mission Council members may be aware that a conversation has been sparked within our own committee that probably needs to be taken up more widely.

We recognise that task-orientated committees often want members to stay on to see a piece of work to its conclusion; but we can see the dangers of preventing new blood from joining, which might well increase diversity and contribute something new to the tasks in hand. As we look for new committee members, and particularly conveners, we are aware of how little is done to prepare individuals to serve on our committees. We are grateful for names that are passed on to us by synods, but realise that many of the people we approach will not really know (even when we can provide a job spec) what is really going to be required of them. We have wondered about the possibility of something like taster sessions for some committees, but then are wary of making the nominating process too burdensome for nominees as well as for ourselves.

Where committees undertake particularly specialised work, we recognise the pressure for individuals (particularly conveners) to go on and on as they are persuaded that there really is no one else with their body of knowledge and expertise. We want to protect such people and to urge such committees to play some part in preparing successors; but at the same time it is clear that in some cases four or five years may be seem less than a reasonable term of service. We would be very pleased to hear the views of members of Mission Council on these and related matters. Comments may be directed to us via the General Secretary.