



Extension of the invitation of Revd Leslie Newton

Recommendation of the nomination committee:

The current invitation of Revd Leslie Newton comes to an end in August 2023. The nomination committee ensured that a consultation process was put in place (in accordance with SO 422) seeking views from a representative sample of people in the Circuits, Connexional groups and Ecumenical partners. They were asked to respond to a number of questions encompassing the themes of *visionary work, communication, support and leadership style*.

The nomination committee met to consider a written report on the feedback and later met with Revd Leslie Newton to share the report. Leslie indicated to the nomination committee that he is willing to offer an extension of 5 years.

The committee recommends that the District Chair be invited for a further 5 years from September 2023.

Reasons for recommendation are shown below:

- Leslie's spiritual, strategic and pastoral skills are centred on Jesus.
- His clear focus is on developing flourishing, missional communities whilst recognising the work needed on governance.
- He has a vision and determination to initiate new ways of working, i.e., the Circuit, Support Group, Kairos Movement, Circuit 17, 'Flourish'.
- Across the District Leslie has created on-going opportunities for joint lay and ordained leadership.
- He is realistic about the fact that there are challenges ahead, especially where churches are struggling for leadership.
- He enthuses others with wisdom, sensitivity, and a sense of humour.
- He challenges, thoughtfully, at connexional level consideration of issues and topics that address how the Methodist Church can develop its mission.
- Leslie has a commitment to looking after the ministers and his care and pastoral support is appreciated by both ordained and lay people.
- He balances strategic thinking and strong leadership with his colleagues with great empathy.
- Leslie is an excellent communicator. He advises and encourages the finding of new ways of communication, as evidenced throughout the pandemic.
- He is committed to answering emails as promptly as possible and values being connected to local churches.
- Leslie is keen to promote ecumenical workings where appropriate and possible.
- Leslie still has much to contribute to the vision in the District.

Reflections:

- The committee discussed with Leslie their concern for his well-being in view of his workload. They encouraged him to delegate where he can and to be vigilant about time management.
- The committee were encouraged to learn that Leslie is prudent about taking holidays and regular exercise and emphasised the need to ensure that he plans in other regular quiet, family, and personal times.

If any member of synod has any questions regarding this process, please contact:

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