

**Synod Secretary**

Sandy Coates

8 Gardner Way, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO53 1JL

Email: sandysynodsecretary@gmail.com

Tele: 02380 252960

---

17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Colleagues

I am taking the very unusual step of sending a second mailing in preparation for our Synod on Saturday 21st September 2019. The timing of events during the summer period and into September meant that this very important information and Resolution could not have been included in the already published Agenda.

I shall be grateful if you will take time, very carefully and prayerfully, to read both the explanation below and the Reasoned Statement and the Resolution printed overleaf before arriving at Synod. We will be taking this item very early in the day and we will proceed to a ballot vote before the coffee break. Thank you.

Our District Chair, Revd Dr Andrew Wood, has been appointed to a Connexional post as 'Head of Ministries' and will be leaving the District in March 2020. The nomination and appointment process for a new Chair does not fit any 'normal' scenario and therefore the Chair's Nomination Committee (CNC) have been guided and advised by the Secretary of Conference in order to bring a nomination to Synod for approval. (SO421A (4))

**Process and timeline**

As a first step in the process of appointing a new Chair, I met with the Secretary of Conference, Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, and we planned a time frame for an appointment process to ensure that we would not clash with Stationing which begins on the 4th November. I then worked with the District Policy Committee (DPC) to approve the addition of four new members to the CNC- Revd John Izzard, Revd David Shaw, Deacon Laura Evans and Mr Paul Yarren. The CNC then set about preparing a District Profile and Person Specification for the Chair of the Southampton District - to meet the Connexional deadline of the 19th July. However, the Secretary of Conference then requested a meeting of the CNC earlier than anticipated and this was arranged for the 31st July 2019. Information, guidance and long, intense discussions at this CNC meeting then informed our decision-making process to appoint an Interim Chair to begin in March 2020 for 30 months to August 2022. The principal reasons for this decision are:-

- possible Connexional changes to governance and structure (a paper will come to Conference in 2020)
- the necessity for a District Review as part of the appointment process of a new Chair
- the current work and direction of travel of the District and the desire to ensure that this is not disrupted
- an interim appointment will coincide with the projected end of the current Chair's appointment.

The Secretary of Conference nominated Revd Andrew de Ville for the post of Chair for an interim period, beginning in March 2020 until August 2022. A very rigorous and challenging interview and discernment day was held on 11th September, chaired by Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson, a former President, and the Secretary of Conference. The CNC voted unanimously to appoint Revd Andrew de Ville, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> September an Extraordinary Meeting of the DPC also voted unanimously to recommend this appointment to Synod. A short presentation will take place at Synod before a ballot vote.

As ever, we seek the wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we make this important decision together.

Yours sincerely

*Sandy*

Sandy Coates,  
**Synod Secretary, Southampton District**

## District Chair's Nomination Committee

### The Reasoned Statement

Following the appointment of Revd Dr Andrew Wood to serve in the Connexional Team and the agreement that his new appointment should be full-time from 1 March 2020, the District Chair's Nomination Committee prepared a profile for the District and a Person Specification for the new Chair.

The committee then met the Secretary of the Conference. In light of the need to make an appointment within a short period of time, and the expectation that a District seeking a new Chair shall undergo a review, together with the consideration in the Connexion of the number and structure of Districts (as discussed in Conference workshops and to be taken forward by the Council), the committee agreed that now is not the time to seek to appoint a Chair for six years.

It was therefore decided to simplify the process of appointment and to explore with the Deputy Chair, Revd Andrew de Ville, whether he would be willing and suitable to serve as Chair for an interim period. The post was therefore not advertised and the District Chair's Nomination Committee met Revd Andrew de Ville on 11 September with the Secretary of the Conference and a past President, the Revd Dr Kathleen Richardson, who chaired the meeting.

**The District Chair's Nomination Committee now nominates Revd Andrew de Ville for appointment as Chair of the Southampton District from March 2020 to August 2022.**

Revd Andrew de Ville is currently Superintendent of the East Solent & Downs Circuit, a circuit whose formation he was instrumental in overseeing. He has previously served in Coventry and brings 18 years of experience in circuit ministry to this role. He has been a Deputy Chair since 2016. He offers the District a developed understanding of the office of a presbyter, considerable administrative and management skills, well-evidenced pastoral and supervisory gifts, and the capacity to embrace change. He has a thorough understanding of the life of the District and the work that has been accomplished by the District's Enabling Team, and a clear vision of how that work might continue.

**Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of Conference**

11 September 2019

<p><b>R7: The Chair's Nomination Committee and the District Policy Committee recommend that Revd Andrew de Ville be appointed to serve as Chair of the Southampton District for an interim period – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022.</b></p>
--