

44. Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

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| Contact names and details | Mr David Walton dswalton@gmx.com The Rt Revd Paul Bayes Co-Chairs of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group |
| Resolution | 44/1. The Conference receives the Report. |
| Subject and aims | To report on the work of the Group during the past year. |

Introduction

1. The Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group (JCAMG) has met twice in the past year. It continues its work guided, we believe, by the Holy Spirit, with the purpose of helping both our Churches to grow deeper into the covenant relationship we share under God and to express more fully our commitment to mission and unity for the sake of God's kingdom.
2. The JCAMG recognises that for our two Churches to move forward in covenant a number of developments are necessary, each of which requires courage and imagination and none of which is sufficient on its own. The proposals to be brought forward by the faith and order bodies of our two Churches need to be set in this wider context and make a difference to the life and mission of our Churches.
3. The Revd Dr Roger Paul has served as one of the Co-Secretaries of our Group and of Methodist-Anglican Panel for Unity in Mission (MAPUM), as well as of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) in its latter years. He retired in April and we take this opportunity to record our appreciation of his very significant contribution to developments under the Covenant.

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4. The faith and order bodies of our two Churches, along with the Joint Subgroup on Ministry and Oversight appointed by them, have continued to make good progress with the tasks given to them in 2014.
5. The MAPUM has also continued to fulfil its key roles. Its work in relation to the Covenant has included exploring the opportunities that deeper communion between our two Churches and interchangeability of presbyteral ministry would offer for our worship, life, and mission.
6. Both the faith and order work and a significant part of the work of MAPUM build on

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the final report of the JIC in 2014. We believe that appreciation of this work will be significantly enhanced if there is a greater and more widespread familiarity with the 2014 report which emerged from an extensive consultation on the JIC's 2013 report. To this end, we encourage the study of the JIC's 2014 report, preferably by groups made up of people from both our Churches.

7. At its last meeting, the JCAMG agreed that it would be helpful to monitor progress in the areas of joint-working identified in the 2013 and 2014 JIC reports, and to note any new developments.
8. The JCAMG is grateful to MAPUM for recruiting a number of Covenant Champions.¹ A second round of recruitment is in hand and interviews are to be held in July shortly after the Methodist Conference and General Synod have met. We hope that champions will be invited to share in diocesan and district synods and to engage in other ways to raise the profile of Anglican-Methodist joint-working under the Covenant at local and intermediate level as well as to advocate the work being done to enable our two Churches to move towards fuller unity in mission, worship, and holiness.
9. One of the specific tasks of Covenant Champions is to gather and share good stories of that joint working. In the light of the overwhelming support of both the Methodist Conference and the General Synod for the recommendations made by the JIC in 2014, we hope that there are many good stories of our Churches at local and regional level giving priority to making full use of what is already possible for them to do together, especially planning together for mission and worship, deployment of ministry and the use of resources.² We look forward to hearing more of those stories and hope that they will inspire even more joint working.

***RESOLUTION

44/1. The Conference receives the Report.

Appendix 1: The mandate and membership of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

1. The 2014 Methodist Conference and the General Synod (in November 2014) approved the three main recommendations of the final report of the Joint Implementation Commission, 'The Challenge of the Covenant', namely:

1 The task of the Covenant Champions is set out in our 2016 report.

2 See Recommendation 2 in 'The Challenge of the Covenant: Uniting in Mission and Holiness'.

