



BMS World Mission Council - member role and profile

Introduction

The BMS Council is an important part of the life of BMS World Mission. It serves four main functions.

Firstly, it is one way in which BMS expresses its accountability to the Baptist churches and unions of the UK, who support the work of BMS through prayer, promotion, financial support and service.

Secondly, the Council provides opportunity for staff and trustees to hear 'from the grass roots' the areas that concern or encourage Council members relating to the work of BMS. At the same time, the Council serves as an opportunity to keep members up to date on major developments, encouragements and concerns from around the world, in order that Council members can be well-resourced to advocate for BMS as opportunities present themselves.

Thirdly, interaction at the Council serves as an important opportunity for us together to discern the mind of Christ over areas of major importance.

Fourthly, under the new (2017) scheme of incorporation, Council members will be Company Members of the new incorporated charity. This gives them responsibility for appointing or removing trustees as at present, but also the power to amend the constitution.

Member role

The Trustees have the legal responsibility for the governance of BMS so the Council is not a policy setting body. However, the Trustees are pledged by covenant to listen carefully to the views of the Council and will generally seek to align policies with the known wishes of the member bodies.

The role of a Council member includes these elements:

- To reflect on the suitability and effectiveness of BMS work and policies
- To make BMS staff and Trustees aware of the views held by the Baptist constituency regarding the work of BMS
- To appoint members of the Board of Trustees and, where appropriate, to other bodies within the BMS structures
- To approve changes to the BMS Constitution
- To support BMS staff and Trustees in their work
- To be an advocate and news-bearer for BMS using locally-available channels

Member profile

The success of the Council depends on appropriate people being appointed and fulfilling their role. Naturally, any profile will be a statement of the ideal, but Council members should be:

- Well-respected in their church and other Christian circles, and able to engage with complex matters
- Knowledgeable about world and mission issues as they exist in the 21st century
- Aware of the work of BMS, and able to share its goals and values
- Articulate and willing to participate in making a full contribution during Council meetings
- Innovative and gifted in advocating for BMS and sharing news in local contexts
- Able to give sufficient time to the work of the Council

Membership

Membership of the Council is made up of the following categories:

- Those appointed by churches – from BUGB associations
- Those who represent the leadership of the Baptist unions and Irish Baptist Networks
- Those who are co-opted
- One representative from the Baptist Colleges

BMS is not prescriptive regarding who appointing bodies should choose for a role in BMS. However, we would encourage those bodies to appoint people taking into account the need for an appropriate gender balance and the need for representation from a variety of cultures, backgrounds and ages.

Term of appointment

Council Members shall normally serve for three years from the date of appointment. At the end of that term a Council Member can be re-appointed, provided that they don't stand for more than three consecutive terms.

Frequency of meetings

The Council will normally meet for half a day twice a year via Zoom.