

**The Revd Loraine N Mellor**  
**President of the Methodist Conference 2017-18**

Revd Peter Timms  
16 Manor Road,  
Bexhill on Sea,  
East Sussex  
TN40 1SP

Methodist Church House  
25 Marylebone Road  
London NW1 5JR

+44 (0) 20 7486 5502 (enquiries)  
helpdesk@methodistchurch.org.uk  
www.methodist.org.uk  
registered charity no 1132208

19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Peter,

Further to your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 and my initial email reply to you I have now had the opportunity to look into the matters you raise.

I am aware of the extensive correspondence you have had on this matter with several of our sisters and brothers at Methodist Church House. I am also aware of, and indeed saddened by, the way you have approached so many other people about this matter. In doing so you have raised questions not just about a process, but raised doubts about the integrity of individuals without them having the right of reply. This is indeed a sad state of affairs and it is not at all easy to see why a complaint that you raised, and which was dealt with is now attracting the time and energy of so many people.

That said there remain concerns on your part about the way in which our standing orders are being interpreted and upheld. In your letter, you make a very serious allegation about officers of the Conference, namely that they have somehow committed an ultimate betrayal. In view of the extensive material, that you are producing and seeing fit to make available on a website it is not easy to get to the heart of this matter. I am not clear what it is you now wish to achieve in respect of the original complaint. Perhaps that is no longer your concern. Certainly, your material reads as if you are now more concerned with a process and the alleged behaviour of others in that process and it is on that basis that I have approached what you say.

It is clear to me that the process which you initiated was followed within the parameters set down by the Conference. It is equally clear to me that the Secretary of the Conference was correct to tell you that there is no mechanism for the Conference to consider your 'set aside motion'. Indeed there never has been such a provision for the Conference to consider such motions. All that could have been done to consider the matters you raise have been done and I am of the view that there is nothing to be gained by any of us spending more time, energy or money on dealing with the matters you raise.

I am aware of the need to ensure that the complaints process is kept under appropriate review to ensure that it is effective and administered appropriately. Such work is ongoing and I know that our sisters and brothers at Methodist Church House take their work seriously in considering