NEW PRESIDENT FOR NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE [Jeff Nicholson, NEC Communication Director]

Pastor Cyril Sweeney is the new president of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists following a vote today of the NEC Executive Committee. The appointment became necessary after the election of former NEC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, to the position of British Union Conference President on Sunday 3 July. The NEC Executive committee, which by constitution functions as the Nominating committee between Conference sessions, met on Sunday, 17 July to select the new president. The meeting was chaired by Pastor Ian Sweeney.

Pastor Cyril Sweeney has extensive leadership experience, having served previously as NEC Youth Director, Community Services Director, and Family Life Director. Presently he is Pastor of the Nottingham district of churches. Pastor Sweeney states that, "I was shocked to receive the call from the committee. My instinctive reaction was to say no, but on reflection who was I saying no to? I would be saying no to the Lord." He added, "I promise to do my best in serving the Lord, the constituency and my colleagues."

Pastor Ian Sweeney described the election process as deliberate, prayerful and exhaustive. The committee first decided on the qualifications of the person to be chosen. These included vision for the church, personal qualities and pastoral abilities. After much prayer each committee member was asked to write down two names. Seven names were nominated. After further prayer and dialogue a shortlist of three names was produced by secret ballot. A further vote narrowed the field to two names. Finally Pastor Cyril Sweeney’s name emerged. The BUC president did not vote at any stage of the process.

The BUC President said; “We welcome Cyril to his new assignment and seek for him and the rest of the team your encouragement and continued prayerful support. I know that he will be sincerely missed by his churches. It is the decision of the committee that he serve as president of the North England Conference and we seek for him and his family your prayers in this new stage of ministry”

The new President along with the other executive officers will oversee the work of the NEC until the next Conference Session scheduled to be held next year.
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