

20. 3Generate 2016 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

Contact name and details	Tim Annan, Youth President youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of paper	Final
Action required	Decision
Resolutions	<p>20/1. The Conference receives the Report.</p> <p>20/2. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the Joint Public Issues Team, in partnership with 3Generate, produce resources for Local Churches and Circuits so that children and young people can be enabled to participate effectively with issues of social justice.</p> <p>20/3. The Conference encourages Local Churches and Circuits to enable all ages to engage positively with Mental Health Awareness Week.</p>

Summary of content

Subject and aims	A summary of 3Generate 2016 – the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly and the work of 3Generate year round.
Main points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance and Representation of 3Generate • Candidates elected for the roles of Youth President and 3Generate Youth Representatives. • The Story of 3Generate • Content, themes and suggested outcomes for the Church from each age stream • What makes 3Generate a year round process? • Highlighted areas for action and resolutions

20. 3Generate 2016 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

Introduction

1. The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, 3Generate, is an engagement process and event for children and young people aged 8-23. It is a safe environment for young people to meet other young Methodists and explore ideas of faith and community. 3Generate allows the opportunity for young people to engage in various worship formats and fun activities, to discuss relevant and topical issues, as highlighted by the young people, and to do so from a personal, biblical, Christian and Methodist point of view. 3Generate holds the participation of young people at its core and allows each individual young person to “speak out” in a variety of ways. This report covers details of the event, activities of age streams, reports outcomes from the event and subsequent processes and describes the plans for moving the 3Generate process forward.

3Generate 2016 theme built on last year’s theme and resolutions to the Conference

2. ‘#Wonderful’ – we explored different aspects to this:
 - i. **Wonderful me** – We are wonderfully made, but what does it mean to be made in the image of God?
 - ii. **Wonderful Church** – The Church is wonderfully made, but sometimes it does not always feel like that. How can we make the Church the wonderful body that it was intended to be?
 - iii. **Wonderful world** – The world is wonderfully made by God, yet humans are damaging it. What can we do to keep the world beautiful as God intended?
 - iv. **Wonderfully prophetic** – How can we be confident and speak out and into the world?
3. The theme was expressed and explored in different aspects of the event sessions and worship.

Facts about this year’s 3Generate event

4. Below are the numbers of delegates and volunteers that attended 3Generate 2016:
 - i. Total delegates that attended this year: 628 delegates aged between 8-23
 - ii. Total volunteers that attended this year: 182 volunteers
5. It should be noted with thanksgiving that there has been a steady increase in numbers of those attending over the last five years:

Year	Total attendance of delegates
2013	222
2014	239
2015	550
2016	628

Elections

6. The following young people were elected as 3Generate Representatives at the 2016 event:

Name	Role
Kira Barfoot	Conference Representative
Liberty Dane	Conference Representative
Sam Lindridge	Conference Representative
Gemma Curtis	Methodist Council Representative
Berenice Dalrymple	Ecumenical Representative
Samuel Edben	Ecumenical Representative

7. They join Dean Lawson, Ruth Hall, Jasmine Roberts, Grace McAloon and Roxanne Bainbridge on the 3Generate Representative team. Along with the previous Youth Presidents, they form the Youth President's Advisory Group under Standing Order 250(9). Methodists and others are invited to follow what they do through the year on Twitter: @3GenReps.
8. In accordance with SO 250(8), 3Generate elected Michael Pryke as Youth President for the connexional year 2017/2018.
9. The Youth President's Advisory Group meet three times a year (January, June and September) and keep in contact through email. Not only have they considered how to develop the 3Generate Representative role, but also have undertaken consultation about 3Generate, the manifestos and resolutions, as well as notice of motion 2015/215.
10. 3GenTV is our very own YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/3GenerateTV) where you can watch reflections and interviews relating to the 3Generate sessions. Get a flavour of the whole event and watch the 3Generate 2016 Story video on 3GenTV (www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBw9bb4Pjo8).

Activities in age streams

8-11s stream

11. The 8-11s programme this year was divided into three sections: Speak Out, Engage and Respond.
 - i. Within the Speak Out session, the 8-11s were given the opportunity to engage with small group sessions on a variety of topics, including "What do you do?" featuring Roger Walton, and "Big questions: asking tricky questions". There was also opportunity within this session to get to know this year's Youth President candidates and the 3Generate Representatives before the voting process.
 - ii. The Engage session was an opportunity to delve deeper into issues that 8-11s had raised in the shaper group process (the means by which subjects are brought to the event) as important to them. These included topics such as:
 - Transition: Making and dealing with changes.
 - Love in Action: Things we can do to make a difference in our world.
 - Living with Conflict: Getting along when we don't always agree.
 - iii. Respond was an opportunity for the 8-11s stream to reflect on what they had been discussing that day in fun and creative ways, from arts and crafts to stop animation and prayer/graffiti walls.

12. On the Sunday, the 8-11s had their Manifesto session, which collected together all the comments and opinions from the sessions on Saturday. The children had a chance to reflect on these and select what themes and issues they wanted included in the Manifestos. The 8-11 Manifesto is contained in Appendix 1. This Manifesto, along with those from the other streams, was used to inform the discussions around and enable the creation of this year's 3Generate Conference resolutions.

11-18s stream

13. Within each time for discussion in the 11-18s stream this year, young people were offered two separate ways to express their opinions. One was through a traditional debate-style format, the other through a creative style. Topics that this age stream looked at included:

- fresh ways of being Church
- vocation
- the refugee crisis
- mental health
- the environment
- school life and pressures.

14. In a whole age stream facilitated session the huge amount of the feedback from this age stream was drawn out and together, including a chance for emerging issues that did not have sessions over the 3Generate Weekend. Again, it was out of this session that the 11-18 Manifestos were born (see Appendix 2 for the 11-18 Manifesto). The 3Generate resolutions have been developed by the Youth President's Advisory group using this information. On the Sunday, there were *Grow* sessions, which were a variety of workshops exploring different styles of worship.

18-23s stream

15. The 18-23s stream this year was based around TED-styled talks. These talks were based around issues such as:

- poverty and the sanction system
- emotional and mental health
- the changing face of community.

A number of these talks are available on 3GenTV. Following the talks, young people were given the opportunity to dig deeper and have conversations with the presenters.

16. During the afternoon, the 18-23s had a *Making Change* session, which was an opportunity for them to discuss and learn ways to be the positive change they want to be in their local context.

17. On the Saturday evening, the age stream played host to a social event that included street food, a quiz and live music.

18. On the Sunday, there was an opportunity to engage and discuss ideas around what the age stream would put into their Manifestos this year. The Manifesto for the 18-plus stream can be found at Appendix 3. This was also time for reflection and prayer together.

Worship

19. As always, worship was a key part of 3Generate. Each age stream had time over the weekend to worship in a variety of different styles such as puppet, contemplative and band led worship. 3Generate partnered with an organisation called Engage Worship to facilitate intergenerational worship on the Sunday morning. The theme was Wonderful Jesus and there was a range of worship styles to choose from such as café style, sung worship, drumming and prayer walks. Find out more at engageworship.org/

Outcomes and subsequent processes

Agents of Change

20. Children and young people at 3Generate were encouraged to be Agents of Change in their home churches and communities and were given Agents of Change wristbands, postcards and badges with a challenge and encouragement to take action. One of the key things to come from this at 3Generate was an expression that “yes, I can make change happen and I can be an agent of change”, but we also want “We – adults and children and young people – working together to be Agents of Change”. We want the church to support, equip and be alongside us in making change happen in our communities, churches and the world. We want to campaign and take action together.

How 3Generate is more than an event - the year-round process

21. 3Generate is more than just an event. However, three main elements crystallise how 3Generate takes place across the Connexion throughout the year. Those elements are Speak, Hear and Respond.
- i. **Speak** is the opportunity young people have to voice their thoughts, concerns and opinions in a way authentic to them. These can be seen through the facilitated conversations and engagement with delegates during the event, 3Generate. After that weekend, resources are provided to support our Local Churches, communities, Circuits and Districts that involve children and young people in conversation and within the life of their local church and community. Key examples of these resources are the 3Generate Manifestos and the 3Generate Big Sleepover resource. These can be found on the website here www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/before-and-after-3generate
 - ii. **Hear** is how we, as a church, get to know about the thoughts, concerns and opinions of the children and young people in the Methodist Church. The Methodist Conference report and the 3Generate Manifestos are great, easy to access ways of hearing from the children and young people. Church communities also use the booklet *Voice Activated* as a way to engage and facilitate conversations in their local context, hearing the voice from the local area. A way we hear about the views and opinions of the children and the young people of the Methodist Church is from the work and roles of the Youth President and the 3Generate Representatives, who represent and advocate the views of the children and young people throughout the year. This year the Youth President has been on visits around the Connexion to see the work of Local Churches, Circuits and Districts with children and young people. Leading workshops on leadership with young people and representing the voice of children and young people at groups and meetings, such as the working party for notice of motion 2015/215 and at the Connexional Leaders’ Forum (CLF). The 3Generate Representatives have been to and represented children and young people at Interfaith Forums, EMYC council meetings and attending regional and district events across the Connexion.
 - iii. **Respond** is a challenge to the whole of the Methodist Church to engage with what they have heard from the children and young people. There are tools and resources available to support church leadership, children, youth and family workers to empower children and young people to be disciples now and Agents of Change in their contexts, and help them play their full, authentic part within the local communities in the Church and the surrounding area.

The 3Generate Manifestos

22. The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. In response to this, each age stream at 3Generate produces a Manifesto, based on the conversations that took place and expressing the views, concerns and aspirations of the children and young people who attended.
23. There are three Manifestos for the three age groups represented at 3Generate: 8-11, 11-18 and 18-23. Each of these was produced following discussions facilitated in a variety of ways, and are what the children and young people said they wanted to focus on for the year.
24. Churches may choose to use the Manifestos in a variety of different ways, but the hope is that they will be a useful tool for the whole Church as well as for the work with children and young people. Over the coming months 3Generate would encourage visits to our webpage
25. www.methodist.org.uk/mission/3generate/before-and-after-3generate/3generate-manifestos is where we will be adding ideas about how to use the Manifestos and resources to support that work.
26. We would encourage churches to display the manifestos, raising the profile of the concerns and interests of children and young people in the Methodist Church. This year the Manifestos are available in English and Welsh language versions.
27. Within each Manifesto, there are plenty of issues that local churches can and are already engaging with. To give one example within the 11-18's Manifesto, mental health was a key issue, saying *"...want to see the Church doing a lot more to provide hope, support and protection for people suffering with poor mental health."*

Plans for moving the 3Generate process forward

28. The above describes just some of the ways that 3Generate is a year round process. 3Generate is keen to be building the capacity of our churches and Circuits to embed participation across the Connexion; it is gratifying to see the increase in the participation of young people on Church Councils and at synod level with many synods now running parallel children and youth synods, district events, and circuit days.
29. In addition, because of the ongoing success and growth of 3Generate, the event will move to a larger venue to encourage this growth to continue. The next event 3Generate 2017 will be 24-26 November at Pontins, Southport. This will necessitate a change from previous years in that children and young people will be encouraged to attend with their leaders accompanying them *in loco parentis*. Groups will stay in accommodation with their leaders who will be responsible for their care throughout the event. Leaders will attend the event for free and will only need to cover their travel costs. Provision will be made for children and young people whose churches are unable to provide an accompanying leader.

Resolutions

30. The 3Generate resolutions for the Conference report were produced this year using the feedback from the children and young people present at 3Generate and by the Youth President's Advisory Group, ie the 3Generate Representatives and the Youth President. The group would like to thank the Church and Community specialists from the Connexional Team, staff from the Conference Office and the Revd Gill Newton, Chair of the Sheffield District, for their support in drafting these resolutions.

31. The feedback was filtered down into topic specific groups, such as poverty, extremism, etc. The 3Generate Representatives then examined all these comments and discerned what the children and young people of the Methodist Church wanted to bring to the Conference of 2017. As a part of this process, the 3Generate Representatives looked over past Conference resolutions and came up with the following criteria for what made a good resolution:
- i. direct and to the point
 - ii. concise but informative
 - iii. no jargon
 - iv. no repetition
 - v. accountability
 - vi. actionable.
32. From the feedback from across the age streams, it was obvious that there was a strong calling for children and young people to engage within issues of social justice, and yet a perceived confusion as to where to start to engage with some of these issues. While the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) does produce resources for the church to engage with issues for an older audience, we do feel that in partnership with 3Generate, JPIT would be able to produce equally useful resources for a younger audience. Therefore, we ask that **the Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the Joint Public Issues Team, in partnership with 3Generate, produce resources for Local Churches and Circuits so that children and young people can be enabled to participate effectively with issues of social justice.**
33. In addition, from the feedback it was clear that across all streams mental health is on the hearts and minds of delegates. Therefore, building on the work started in the 2014 Conference, which arose from a recommendation from that year's 3Generate report and has enabled steps to be taken towards a more positive culture change in the Church in respect to awareness of mental health issues, 3Generate feels that this remains a major issue not just in the lives of the young people, but across all ages. Therefore, we ask that **the Conference encourages Local Churches and Circuits to enable all ages to engage positively with Mental Health Awareness Week.**

***RESOLUTIONS

- 20/1. The Conference received the Report.
- 20/2. The Conference directed the Methodist Council to ensure that the Joint Public Issues Team, in partnership with 3Generate, produce resources for Local Churches and Circuits so that children and young people can be enabled to participate effectively with issues of social justice.
- 20/3. The Conference encouraged Local Churches and Circuits to enable all ages to engage positively with Mental Health Awareness Week.

Manifesto 8-11s

Hear the voice: respond with action

As Methodists we are called to respond to the Gospel message and live as disciples in the world. In response to this, children spoke out at 3Generate! Below is a summary of what was said about the issues that children identified as the most important. Children want the Church in 2017 to hear this...

Wonderful Me

We want everyone to respect each other in their words and actions. We experience lots of pressure at school, particularly to perform well. We ask the Church to look for ways to help us, talk to us and to support us.

Wonderful Church

We want the Church to support charities and to enable us, along with the whole Church, to be involved in helping others. We want to worship and discover more about God and prayer. We want the church to enable us to do this in ways that engage and challenge us and help us to understand. We can, and want to be, involved in and contribute to the worshipping life of the Church.

Wonderful World

We want the Church to stand together against racism and injustice. We want the Church to campaign with us to support people who are homeless, refugees, slaves and in poverty.

Wonderfully Prophetic

We want guidance and support to know what to do, or what actions to take, about difficult situations in the world. We want to be agents of change! The people of the world should be a community that lives together in peace.

Manifesto 11-18s

Hear the voice: respond with action

As Methodists we are called to respond to the Gospel message and live as disciples in the world. In response to this, young people spoke out at 3Generate! Below is a summary of what was said about the issues that young people identified as the most important. Young people want the Church in 2017 to hear this...

Poverty

The world should be equal and all should be valued, therefore poverty is unfair. We should all work together in community to tackle poverty in such ways as social action, good stewardship and appropriate challenges to society.

Mental Health

We want to see the Church doing a lot more to provide hope, support and protection for people suffering with poor mental health. More education and awareness is needed so that stigma is reduced and people are better equipped to help.

School life

We are under increasing pressure to achieve and feel that we cannot be our true selves. Support us by trying to understand the pressures we face, provide space for us to talk, help us manage the balance between schoolwork and life, and equip us to be who we are.

Extremism

There is a recognition that extreme views are not necessarily bad, but the actions of extremists can be negative. People should be encouraged and enabled to channel their extreme passions and beliefs in positive ways. We want people to have a better understanding of extremism, and guidance on how and when to challenge extremism with love.

The refugee crisis

This issue causes frustration and uncertainty as to what can be done. There needs to be aid, advocacy and a change in public opinion so that refugees are helped and supported. It is the responsibility of everyone to do this.

Appendix 3

Manifesto 18-23s

Hear the voice: respond with action

As Methodists we are called to respond to the Gospel message and live as disciples in the world. In response to this, 18-23s spoke out at 3Generate! Below is a summary of what was said about the issues that 18-23s voted as the most important. 18-23s want the Church in 2017 to hear this...

Educate the Church to understand us better so we can be better resourced and equipped to be agents of change.

Support us to undertake acts of mercy and challenge injustice to change the narrative on issues like poverty and homelessness.

Recognise that all young people are called by God and that we all - not just ordained ministers - need encouragement, support and recognition in our calling.

Provide opportunities to speak constructively about mental health in churches, and recognise that we should be equipped to look after our own and other's mental health.

Provide more opportunities to talk about issues (not just young people's issues) in churches.