

Work from the Conference 2015/16

Contact Name and Details	Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary, swanneyd@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Note
Draft Resolution	77/1. The Council receives the workplan for 2015/16.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	n/a

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To share with the Council the workplan from the Conference for 2015/16 following discussion at the Strategy and Resources Committee.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan for 2015/16 of work sent from the Conference in 2015 with uncompleted or ongoing items from previous years • Additional work the Team is carrying not listed in the workplan from the Conference
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	Workplan for 2014/15 – MC/14/78.
Consultations	Strategy and Resources Committee

*****RESOLUTION**

77/1. The Council receives the workplan for 2015/16.

Additional ongoing pieces of work undertaken by the Connexional Team

In addition to the work plan from the Conference and the cluster descriptions there are a number of other pieces of work that the Connexional Team is regularly engaged with. These additional pieces of work which impact the Team's time and resources are listed below for the Council to be aware of:

- Strategy for Global Mission and Engagement
- World Mission Fund Reserves policy and run down
- Implementation of first stages ie Partner Relationship Reviews, trialling new programmes
- Ongoing Team changes – Communications and Publishing, Helpdesk, changes to SoC role and consequential changes to rest of Team
- Creation of Publishing Board
- Internal Audit follow up on Grants processes
- EDI Toolkit completion of pilots and dissemination around Connexion
- Supporting the Pay and Grading Review
- Review of Church of Scotland pilot within JPIT
- All We Can engagement review
- Legacy pack trial and launch
- Fundraising strategy review including possible 2018 bicentenary campaign
- Staff Satisfaction Survey – year 2
- Ongoing Shared Values work (with some initial work on *Our Priorities*)
- One Mission Forum set up and support
- Methodist Church House building work logistics management
- Methodist Church House Foyer design and “mission” display
- Local Preachers and Worship Leader training course finalised and launched
- 3Generate engagement in Districts
- Facilitating roll out of new SORP across connexion and treasurer training
- Identifying and implementing new payroll system, covering ministerial and lay central payroll
- Supporting pension auto enrolment staging date for many local employing bodies in April 2016
- Overseeing £2m+ property redevelopment at 24 Somerset Road, Birmingham
- JPIT team organisation and staffing (including implications of Rachel Lampard becoming Vice-President)
- Induction of new Principal at Cliff College
- Implementation of personnel files for ministers

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Methodist Council					
22.	Methodist Council, part 1				
22/5.	The Conference directs the Council to undertake further work on the proposal to apply the levy in SO 955(6) to local church capital model trust funds and to report their recommendations to the 2016 Conference. [DR 7/10/3]	Jan 2016	2016	Conference Office	Other work flows from the recommendations that were adopted. The Support Services cluster is implementing these.
27.	General Secretary's report				
27/2.	The Conference welcomes the possibility of new partnerships in mission and service overseen by the European Methodist Council and directs the Methodist Council to explore, in conjunction with the Connexional Grants Committee, what level of resource can be made available to enable the development of such work.	January 2016	N/A	Connexional Secretary/WCR with Connexional Grants Committee	
28.	Methodist Council, part two				
28/3A	Replacement Projects New Resolution [DR 7/11//4] The Conference directs the Council to bring draft detailed guidance on the classification of a project as a replacement project to the Conference in 2016. [See also two additional paragraphs at DR 7/11/2]	Jan 2016	2016	Conference Office	
45/2.	Report of the Working Party on Accessibility to the Conference The Conference adopts recommendation 1 and directs the Methodist Council to agree the terms of reference for a working party, and to appoint such a working party which shall report to the Council and the Conference no later than 2017. [DR 6/22/1] The Conference further directs that the terms of reference for the working party shall include further consideration of the issue of accessibility, not just the logistics of running the Conference, but how people can engage with the Conference, regardless of experience, ability or confidence, challenging itself to engage in a radical rethink. The membership of the working party shall include those who have expertise in these areas. [DR 6/22/2]	Oct 2015 appoint group Jan/Apr 2017 for report	2017	Conference Office: Working Party	
47.	Safeguarding Report				
47/2.	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure that an additional training element of the Foundation Module is developed as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report and to ensure that it be available from September 2016. [DR 5/10/1]	No report needed Available by Sept 2016	2016	Support Services	
48.	Past Cases Review: Implementation				
48/2	The Conference appoints the Past Cases Review Implementation Group.....		2016 2017	Conference Office Support Services	
48/3.	The Conference empowers the Council to make arrangements for any pilot			Conference Office	

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	schemes that will help to give effect to the long term implementation of recommendations contained with the Past Cases Review Report. [DR 5/11/3]			Support Services	
57.	District Resolution				
57/1.	The Conference directs the Methodist Council and the Heritage Committee to liaise with the Cornwall District on the possible development of Methodist heritage opportunities in Cornwall as set out in the resolution of the Representative Synod of the Cornwall District. [DR 7/5] [We recognise that this resolution has financial implications but we would hope that it would fall into to the budget for 2016/17.]	Jan 2016, to give time to feed into budget decisions		Mission and Advocacy in supporting the Council and the Heritage Committee	
NOM 204	Mapping the Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission [DR 7/16] The Conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notes with appreciation the significant impact the initiative of <i>Mapping the Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission</i> has had on the life of the Methodist Church for almost a decade – helping Circuits to review their readiness for mission and the structures needed to facilitate that mission. Notes that a significant consequence of this work has been the reconfiguring of many Circuits. Recognises that there are many anecdotes as to the perceived positive and negative effects of such reconfigurations for both large and small Circuits. <p>However there has never been any quantitative or qualitative research into the impact and effect of <i>Mapping the Way Forward: Regrouping for Mission</i> for the mission of the Church. Given that the process has now been underway for almost a decade the Conference is of the view that the time for a formal research project examining the evidence would be extremely helpful to the Church as it continues to reshape for effective mission in the twenty-first century.</p> <p>The Conference therefore directs the Methodist Council to make arrangements for and oversee such research and report its findings to the Conference of 2016.</p>	First report Oct 2015 then April 2016	2016	Discipleship and Ministries	
NOM 208	Conscientious Objection [DR 6/7] The Conference directs the Methodist Council to engage the support of relevant connexional staff and work with Christian Peace Organisations to hold a web-streamed act of worship in February 2016 to mark 100 years since the right to conscientious objection was enshrined in law.	Oct 2015 Re Event in February 2016		Comms, Heritage, JPIT limited support offered to those leading on this	Connexional Secretary bringing options to the Council.
NOM 210	National Insurance Payments [DR 7/8] The Conference expresses its concern over the shortcomings of the payroll	January 2016	2016	Support Services	The Council will need

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	<p>service provided by the Connexion to many Churches, Circuits and Districts in regard to the payment of National Insurance (NI) where an individual has part-time employments with more than one church body. The Conference notes that as a result of the payroll service not recognising Churches, Circuits and Districts as separate employers, employees and employing bodies are paying extra NI over and above what is required, costing individuals and employing bodies considerable additional expense. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to take steps to ensure that this situation is rectified as quickly as possible and to report the outcome to the Conference of 2016.</p> <p>Referred to the Council under SO 131(17(a)(i) but not voted on</p>				<p>some advice on how to deal with this NoM</p> <p>The timescales apply ONLY if the Council agrees to pass substance of the NoM</p>
NOM 211	<p>Significant Anniversaries [DR 7/9]</p> <p>The Conference, mindful that 2018 will mark the 75th Anniversary of MHA, and 2019 the 150th Anniversary of Action for Children, looks forward to marking these significant landmarks.</p> <p>Consequently it directs the Methodist Council to engage with both charities in order to ensure that 2018/19 will offer opportunities for the Methodist people to celebrate these two examples of our practical Christian Social Concern.</p> <p>Referred to the Council under SO 131(17(a)(i) but not voted on.</p>	January 2016		SoC/ Connexional Secretary	<p>The Council will need some advice on how to deal with this NoM.</p> <p>The timescales apply ONLY if the Council agrees to pass substance of the NoM</p>
NOM 212	<p>The Value of Human Life [DR 7/34/3]</p> <p>The Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Believes that every human life is of intrinsic value and ought to be affirmed and cherished. • Notes its previously expressed opposition to euthanasia, in the Statement adopted by the 1974 Conference. • Expresses serious concern about moves to legalise assisted dying, which would have a seriously detrimental effect on the wellbeing of individuals and on the nature and shape of our society, and can only add to the pressures that many vulnerable terminally ill people will feel, placing them at increased risk of distress and coercion at a time when they most need love and support. • Believes that the hallmarks of a truly compassionate society include high quality palliative care, greater support for carers and enhanced end of life services. It commends those who provide these, whether professionally or voluntarily, but feels that more could and should be done. • Calls upon Her Majesty's Government to give such services a higher priority and upon the Methodist people to increase the practical and 	January 2016		M&A (JPIT)	<p>The Council will need some advice on how to deal with this NoM.</p>

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	<p>prayerful support they give to the terminally ill and to their carers.</p> <p>Referred to the Council under SO 131(17(a)(i) but not voted on</p>				
NOM 221	<p>Amendment to Notice of Motion 2015/212 'The Value of Human Life'</p> <p>Third bullet point to read: 'Notes the serious concern expressed by many about moves to legalise assisted dying, which they believe would have a seriously detrimental effect on the wellbeing of individuals and on the nature and shape of our society and could add...' (last lines as printed).</p> <p>Fourth bullet to read: 'Also notes the position of others that, where death is considered both certain and imminent, a compassionate due judicial dispensation to allow assisted end-of-life could be appropriate'</p> <p>Referred to the Council under SO 131(17(a)(i) but not voted on</p>	January 2016			
NOM 214	<p>Home for Good [DR 7/25]</p> <p>The Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes that in December 2014, 2,960 children were waiting for an adoptive family in England alone (Department for Education 2015) and an estimated 8,600 foster homes are needed in the UK*. The Church can play a vital role in responding to this need. • The 'Home for Good' campaign aims to raise awareness of the desperate need for foster and adoptive families, to encourage people to reflect on whether they could foster or adopt, and to equip churches to appropriately support people who foster or adopt or children who are fostered or adopted. • Supports the 'Home for Good' campaign and encourages churches and church members to reflect on how they can respond to this need. • Directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the Connexional Team consider ways in which the Methodist Church can further engage with 'Home for Good' and the wider subject of support related to fostering and adoption. 	October 2015?		Discipleship and Ministries.	Workshop at the Connecting Disciples event, and weblink to material. To be reported to the Council.
NOM 215	<p>Statement on pornography [DR 8/31]</p> <p>The Conference directs: That the Methodist Council appoint a Working Group to prepare a draft Conference Statement and discussion materials appropriate for different age groups on pornography and to report to the 2017 Conference. That the Working Group has a membership with expertise in sexual ethics, psychology and the nature of digital media, and also representatives from</p>	<p>Initial discussion Oct 2015</p> <p>Report to January 2017</p>	2017		Discussion paper to be brought to the Council in October 2015, possibly discussed in a workshop.

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	<p>the 3Generate Age Group. The Terms of Reference be agreed by the Methodist Council in consultation with the 3Generate representatives to the Methodist Council.</p>				
NOM 216	<p>Fossil Fuels and Climate Change [DR 8/4/3] The Conference: Directs the Methodist Council to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how these issues can be raised effectively with Her Majesty's Government, for example by adopting a high carbon price. • Ask JPIT to make as widely known as possible within current resources the information available from Operation Noah, A Rocha, Zero Carbon Britain, Christian Aid, All We Can and other appropriate bodies, for Districts, Circuits and Local Churches to explore this issue and take appropriate action. 			Mission and Advocacy - JPIT	
NOM 220	<p>Migrating People and Sanctuary [DR 7/26] [...] The Conference notes the launch of the 'Sanctuary for All' initiative at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham on 11 May 2015, which offers inspiring biblical, worship, theological and practical resources for local churches, especially for Racial Justice Sunday, and encourages the Council to ensure that the Connexional Team explores how this resource might be published, possibly in association with others. [...]</p> <p>The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to write to Her Majesty's Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ incorporating the spirit of this Notice of Motion; ○ urging continued financial assistance for refugees within the region; ○ advocating an even more generous and compassionate approach to a situation to which we, by some of our actions in the region have contributed; ○ urging Her Majesty's Government to accept a much increased number of those arriving in Europe, commensurate with our size and resources. 			<p>Support Services in support of EDI Committee D&M to explore publication of resources with M&A, disseminate via the Race Stakeholder Forum etc.</p> <p>JPIT also undertaking work on Migration</p>	
M2 to M6	<p>Review of ministerial training [DR 7/13/2] The proposal endorsed by the 2014 Conference (Resolution 32/16) was in response to a memorial (M6) of the 2013 Conference which sought an urgent review to reconsider how ministerial training should be configured. By resolution 32/16 the Conference subsequently agreed the timescale of the review noting that the Ministries Committee, on behalf of the Methodist Council, would put in place a review process.</p>	Oct 2015 (in terms of process) then	2017	Conference Office with input from Discipleship and Ministries	The Council will need draft ToR for October. The Ministries Committee will need to be asked what advice it is offering so that any

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	<p>Whilst this memorial goes beyond the view of the Methodist Council (Agenda 2014, p. 294) that the Ministries Committee should act on its behalf, the memorial helpfully sets out the responsibility for both determining the terms of reference of the review and appointing the membership of a panel to undertake the review. The Conference notes the concern implicit in the memorial for the independence of any process and accepts the memorial.</p> <p>The Conference, noting that the Ministries Committee is accountable to the Conference through the Council for matters of policy and process relating to ministerial training (Standing Order 32A1, clauses (2) and (3)) directs the Council to consult the Ministries Committee in the drafting of the terms of reference of the review.</p>	Jan 2017			advice can be considered at the Council. A proposed membership will also be required.
M7	<p>Review of Fruitful Field [DR 7/13/2]</p> <p>The Conference accepts point (a) of the Memorial and directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the review raised in section (a) of the memorial takes place and to determine the most effective means of undertaking this review.</p> <p>a) Agree the terms of reference for the review which should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the wider implementation of Fruitful Field (not just ministerial training) - the provision of resources for lay training - the impact of the new training arrangements on candidating. 	<p>Oct 2015 (in terms of process)</p> <p>then Jan 2017</p>	2017		
M12	<p>Pastoral care of supernumerary ministers [DR 7/38]</p> <p>The ConferenceNoting that the memorial is not prescriptive but gives an example of the way in which the pastoral care of supernumeraries might be enhanced, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to instruct the Connexional Team to ensure the memorial and the issues it raises are discussed with the District Chairs and at the annual Superintendents' training event.</p>			Discipleship and Ministries in respect of superintendents events (also retirement courses).	The CAC is looking at developing a more coherent approach to this involving MMPS, MMHS, MHA etc..
M13 and 14	<p>Circuit Assessments [DR 6/12]</p> <p>The Methodist Council is charged with bringing a recommendation to the 2016 Conference regarding the method of calculating the total assessment for the three years commencing 1 September 2017. The Conference instructs the Council to take the factors expressed within this memorial, in addition to those brought to the 2014 Conference, into account when determining that recommendation.</p>	Jan 2016	2016	Support Services to feed this into FSC and SRC discussions.	
M16	<p>Sale of model trust property for social housing [DR 7/38]</p> <p>The Conference therefore accepts the direction to review the types of social housing providers to whom Methodist premises can be sold at an</p>	No date given	N/A		Dependent on policy determined by the 'Releasing Property'

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	undervalue.				Council group.
M17	<p>Retaining mission opportunities in rural areas [DR 7/38]</p> <p>The Conference ... accepts part (a) of the memorial. (a) to direct that conversations be held with TMCP as Custodian Trustees to encourage and enable an appropriate interpretation of best value as against best price under charity law so that mission opportunities are not lost; The Conference directs the Council to ensure this <i>[part (b)]</i> forms part of the work being undertaken <i>[regarding Releasing Property for God's Mission]</i>. (b) to encourage Circuits and churches to look at more innovative ways of disposing of some of their church properties, for example, where suitable, in partnership with the Addington Fund who provide homes for retired farmworkers in rural areas. In this way missional benefit may be maximised in such disposals; it would also be possible to grant a 99 year lease giving a rental value to the Methodist Church and a renewed pastoral opportunity – possibly for rural chaplains; The Conference encourages all Districts, Circuits and churches to support rural chaplaincy and therefore accepts part (c) of the memorial. (c) to encourage Districts, Circuits and churches to give grants to rural chaplains so as to extend their work in these areas.</p>	The 'Releasing Property' work is due to go back to the Council in January 2016 Items (b) and (c) to be reported to the October 2015 Council	N/A	Conference Office Support Services (Who and how much depends on how the Council working party is constituted and supported) Discipleship and Ministries	Work underway to update and develop effective presence in rural communities.
M19	<p>Management of listed buildings [DR/7/38]</p> <p>The Conference directs the Methodist Council to consider the contents of this memorial within the work it has committed to undertake and to include proposals in the report that it brings to the 2016 Conference.</p>	April 2016	2016	Support Services (Conservation).	Also part of the 'Releasing Property' group's work. Would also be appropriate to consult Heritage Officer on proposals/guidelines as there could be Heritage implications.
M20	<p>Authorisation of small property works [DR 7/38]</p> <p>the Conference does recognise the lack of clarity that there is around what works are permitted without consent, and therefore directs the Methodist Council to ensure that guidance is drafted to clarify the application of Standing Order 930(1) and that it is made available on the Methodist Church website by 1 September 2016.</p>	By April 2016	-	Conference Office Support Services	
M22	<p>TMCP [DR 7/38]</p> <p>...the Conference recognises that there are ongoing concerns about the service TMCP are able to provide and therefore directs the Methodist Council to enter into discussions with the Board and Chief Executive of</p>	Jan 2017	2017	Conference Office	

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	<p>TMCP to try and find ways to continue to improve the service provided to the Connexion.</p> <p>The Conference directs the Methodist Council to report back to the Conference at the earliest practical opportunity, but no later than 2017, on the outcome of the discussions.</p>				
M24	<p>Safeguarding Co-ordinators [DR 5/10/2]</p> <p>The Conference... declines the Memorial [<i>requesting that Safeguarding officer roles be included in Standing Orders</i>] but directs the Methodist Council to review and update the safeguarding policies and where appropriate bring the amended policies to the 2017 Conference.</p>	January 2017	2017	Support Services	
M30	<p>Tax Justice [DR 8/35]</p> <p>The Conference recognises that Tax Justice is a crucial element in challenging injustice and addressing inequality, both in the UK and the wider world, and that it will not be achieved without considerable long-term effort. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure the Connexional Team continues to work with Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI), the Central Finance Board (CFB), the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) and the Methodist Tax Justice Network (MTJN) for at least the next three years, as resources allow, and directs the Methodist Council to review progress in this area of work in early 2018 and to report to the Conference of that year.</p>	January 2018	2018	Mission and Advocacy	With JACEI, CFB JPIT, MTJN

Secretary of the Conference					
38.	Faith and Order Committee Report				
38/2.	The Conference adopts the guidance set out in Part B of the Report and directs the Secretary of the Conference to ensure that it is made available to Superintendent Ministers. [DR5/15]	No date given		The Secretary of the Conference	
39.	Report of the Working Group on 'Fellowships Groups'				
39/2.	<p>The Conference affirms the recommendations set out in the Report and directs that further work as indicated in the Report is overseen by the One Mission Forum and in respect of 7.2 by the Secretary of the Conference. [DR 7/14]</p> <p>[7.2 Consider whether an agreed number of representatives of 'fellowship groups' should be representatives to the Conference as a temporary measure. (The group is aware of the sensitivity of this recommendation, and the careful way in which the current size and construction of the Conference is determined, but believes that the Secretary of the Conference might oversee consideration of this matter.)]</p>	No date given		The Secretary of the Conference	One Mission Forum

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Law and Polity Committee					
28.	Methodist Council, part two				
28/8.	Commercial Leases The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee to bring the necessary Standing Order amendments to the 2016 Conference. [DR 7/11/5] [as described further in 28/5, 6, 7]	Jan 2016	2016	Conference Office	
NOM 201	Reinstatement as a Presbyter [DR 7/22] Due to the ambiguity of our current procedures, clarification is needed as to when a former presbyter or probationer seeking reinstatement should seek to be reinstated as a local preacher. Therefore, the Conference directs that a former presbyter who wishes to return to the active work must first seek reinstatement as a local preacher as set out in SO 761(14). This clarification to be included in SO 761(1). The Conference further directs the Law and Polity Committee to bring amendments to standing orders, to this effect, to the Conference of 2016.	Jan 2016	2016	Conference Office	

Faith and Order Committee					
14.	Issues of Connexionalism in the 21st Century				
14/2.	The Conference: (DR 6/13/2)				
	(a) invites responses to be submitted to the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee by 30 September 2016; (DR 6/13/2)			Conference Office	
	(b) Directs the Faith and Order Committee to present a further report to the 2017 Conference. (DR 6/13/2)	January 2017	2017	Conference Office in support of the Committee	
37.	Holy Communion Mediated Through Social Media				
37/1.	The Conference receives the report as an interim report and directs that the further work be undertaken (including the involvement of those set out in the original response to the M13 (2011), young people involved with 3Generate, CODEC and others with broad, in- depth expertise in this fast developing area) and that a fuller report be presented to the Conference no later than 2018. [DR 7/36]	January 2016	2018	Conference Office in support of the Committee Discipleship and Ministries 3Generate	
46/4.	Connexional Allowances Committee The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to undertake a major review of the theological foundation of all matters of ministerial remuneration and to report to the Conference of 2017. [DR 6/5/1]	April 2017	2017		
M1	Authorisation to preside at communion [DR 7/38] The Conference [...] directs the Connexional Authorisations Committee,	April 2016	2016		Authorisations Committee

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	with the Faith and Order Committee, to reconsider the criteria and to report to the 2016 Conference. [DR 7/38]				
	Ministries Committee				
28.	Methodist Council, part two				
28/10.	(Ministries Committee – Response to Memorials) The Conference adopts the further replies to:				
	M7 (2013) Local Preachers on Trial <i>The [2013] Conference therefore refers this memorial to the Ministries Committee to consider as part of their work on Local Preacher training and directs the committee to report back to the Conference no later than 2015.</i> The Ministries Committee recommends, at this stage, that no changes are made to standing orders but that consideration of the appropriate title form part of a consultation process with Local Preachers’ Meetings during 2015-16 with recommendations to the Ministries Committee in 2016-17 and, as appropriate, to the Conference of 2017.	January 2017	2017	Discipleship and Ministries	
	M8 (2013) Responsibilities of Worship Leaders <i>The [2013] Conference therefore refers this memorial to the Ministries Committee to consider as part of their work on worship leader training and directs the committee to report back to the Conference no later than 2015.</i> The Ministries Committee recommends that a consideration of the title and agenda of the Local Preachers’ Meeting form part of a consultation process with Local Preachers’ Meetings during 2015-16 with recommendations to the Ministries Committee in 2016-17 and, as appropriate, to the 2017 Conference.	January 2017	2017	Discipleship and Ministries	
	M9 (2013) Length of appointment for worship leaders <i>The Conference therefore refers this memorial to the Ministries Committee to consider as part of their work on Worship Leader training and directs the committee to report back to the Conference no later than 2015.</i> The Ministries Committee recommends that no changes be made to the current length of appointment of Worship Leaders noting that there is already provision to extend appointments subject to review. In the light of increased expectations related to the initial training of Worship Leaders, the Committee recommends that Circuits pay careful attention to who is appointed to the role of Worship Leader noting that a Worship Leader is someone who regularly takes a leading or co-ordinating role in the conduct of worship. The Ministries Committee also recommends that the possibility of a quinquennial review of Local Preachers be included as part of a consultation process with Local Preachers’ Meetings during 2015-16 with	January 2017	2017	Discipleship and Ministries	

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	recommendations to the Ministries Committee in 2016-17 and, as appropriate, to the 2017 Conference.				
M11	<p>Sabbaticals [DR 7/38]</p> <p>The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to undertake a review of sabbatical policy reporting back no later than the 2017 Conference. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to liaise with the Connexional Allowances Committee to identify any potential financial impact in relation to the sabbatical levy and permitted expense limits.</p>	Jan 2017	2017	Discipleship and Ministries	Connexional Allowances Committee

Stationing Committee					
M10	<p>Maternity Leave [DR 7/38]</p> <p>The Conference ... notes the importance of appropriate arrangements for maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave. The Conference notes changes in April 2015 to legislation regarding maternity leave and the subsequent revisions to Standing Orders 807, 807A, 807B and 807D considered by this Conference (Agenda, report 17).</p> <p>The request for guidance made in this memorial was considered by the Stationing Committee at its meeting in March 2015. The committee agreed that a set of guidelines should be developed and then presented to the Methodist Council for approval prior to its publication, to ensure that any such connexional guidelines are in keeping with recent changes to legislation.</p> <p>The Conference therefore accepts the memorial, noting that the Stationing Committee is already undertaking this work, and will present proposed guidelines for Circuits and churches regarding arrangements for maternity leave to the Methodist Council no later than October 2016.</p>	by Oct 2016		Support Services	

Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee					
NOM 203	<p>Selection Criteria for Candidating [DR 7/24]</p> <p>Recent experience of the candidating process has drawn attention to the fact that even though all reports from District Candidates Committees are prepared in response to current selection criteria, nowhere in standing orders is there any reference to these selection criteria. Whilst recognising that it would be inappropriate for the selection criteria themselves (which may be modified from time to time) to appear in standing orders, it would nevertheless seem sensible for the procedures which are set out in standing orders to include reference to the selection criteria. This would serve both to confirm and clarify the role which they play in our Candidating</p>		2016	Conference Office in support of the Law and Polity Committee	

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	procedures and also to allow for a clearer process of appeal, should it be considered that a decision of the Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee runs counter to the selection criteria currently in use. Accordingly, the Conference directs that the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, in conjunction with the Law and Polity Committee, review those standing orders that relate to the candidating process so as to include reference to the selection criteria.				
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Authorisations Committee					
M1	Authorisation to preside at communion [DR 7/38] The Conference thanks etc... , it is some time since the criteria for the current deprivation figure were set. It therefore directs the Connexional Authorisations Committee, with the Faith and Order Committee, to reconsider the criteria and to report to the 2016 Conference. [DR 7/38]	April 2016	2016	Faith and Order Committee	

Connexional Leaders Forum					
NOM 101	Flourishing, fruitfulness and growth [DR 5/5/2] The Conference welcomes the work of the Connexional Leaders' Forum (CLF) on 'the accountability and flourishing of our ministers and the fruitfulness and growth of our churches' (as outlined in paragraph 16 (Agenda p230) of Item 27. The General Secretary's Report) and invites the CLF to bring a report of their discussions to the Conference as soon as possible for wider discussion and action.	April 2016	2016	Secretary of the Conference	

Support Services with MMPS Trustees					
31/1.	Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS)				
31/4.	The Conference directs that a consultation take place with members throughout 2015/16 with a view to linking the pension increase to the 7annual rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rather than and CFB the Retail Price Index (RPI) from 1 September 2016.	April 2016	2016		

Marriage and Relationships Task Group					
NOM 219	Cohabitation [DR 7/21/3] The Conference, recognising that a response to cohabitation is a critical part of the whole debate and not something to be considered in isolation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> directs the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee, to ensure that amongst the resources to be identified or produced, to facilitate and support further discussion on the wide-ranging nature of human relationships, the issues around 	Jan 2016	2016	Support Services	Faith and Order Committee

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	<p>cohabitation are not overlooked;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directs the Task Group and the Faith and Order Committee to ensure that, should the Conference decide to revisit the question of embarking upon a process of revising the Methodist Church's definition of marriage, consideration of cohabitation should form part of this process. 				
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JACEI/CFB					
NOM 216	<p>216 Fossil Fuels and Climate Change [DR 8/4/3] The Conference: Directs JACEI to continue to work with the CFB to develop clear criteria for possible divestment from fossil fuel companies, in accordance with the CFB Policy Statement on Climate Change, and including a timeline and conditions for possible reinvestment in the future, and to report on all these matters to Conference 2016, and subsequently as appropriate;</p>		2016	Mission and Advocacy	
NOM 216	<p>216 Fossil Fuels and Climate Change [DR 8/4/3] The Conference: Encourages the Methodist people to study both this new Report and the CFB's Position and Policy Papers and a) urges the CFB to continue to divest from companies which have significant holdings in Thermal Coal and Tar Sands or are primarily involved in exploration for fossil fuels, all such divestment to be completed by Conference 2017; b) encourages the CFB to seek from companies especially in the fossil fuel, insurance and financial sectors a Low Carbon Business Plan incorporating a target of a maximum 2 degrees increase in global temperatures; c) requests the CFB to develop and report on a strategy for increasing its investments in renewable energy, with a target of 5% of equities in mind, even if this involves modest 'risk';</p>		2017	Mission and Advocacy	

Youth President's Advisory Group					
M23	<p>Induction of Youth Presidents [DR 5/22/2] The Conference notes the Youth President's position (Standing Order 250(8)) as a representative of the Children and Youth Assembly and as an encourager and representative of children and young people in the life of the Church. Whilst not committing itself to any particular proposal, the Conference agrees that the way the Youth President is welcomed into his or her role should be reviewed. It directs that the Youth President's Advisory</p>		2016	Discipleship and Ministries and Connexional Sec	

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

	<p>Group (Standing Order 250(9)), consisting of the Youth President-designate, the ex-Youth President, those elected by the Children and Youth Assembly to be representatives to the Methodist Conference, and those nominated by it to be appointed by the Conference as members of the Methodist Council, should work collaboratively with members of the Connexional Team to consider any changes of practice that would enable the Youth President to be welcomed and recognised in a way consistent with the culture of children and young people and the Standing Orders governing the role.</p>				
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Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion

Memorials from previous Conferences referred for report to the 2015 Conference.

Memorial		Body responsible	Deadline for report to the Conference	Current Situation
M23: (2013)	Condition of manses	Ministries Committee	No later than 2015	Initial report considered by the Methodist Council in 2015, further work to be undertaken for a report to be made in 2016.
M8: (2014)	Church stewards and lay leadership	Faith and Order Committee and Ministries Committee	No date set	
M35: (2014)	Covenants of Care	Methodist Council	2017	It was agreed that Safeguarding would work on this once the PCR recommendations were known. Terms of Reference will be brought to the Council for consideration.

Notices of Motion from previous Conferences referred for report to the 2015 Conference.

Notice of Motion		Body responsible	Report to the Conference	Current Situation
NM 206 (2010)	Supporting Christians against discrimination in the workplace	Methodist Council	No date set	This NM was referred to the Council without the Conference expressing its mind. Brief paper to the Council explaining where it is up to and asking whether the Council wishes to pursue it – October 2015?
NM 109 (2013)	Diaconal membership	Methodist Council	No later than 2015	Work yet to be completed, a report will be brought to the 2016 Conference in light of ongoing consideration of the theology of the diaconate.
NM 206 (2014)	Resourcing Leadership	Methodist Council	No later than 2016	The Council has appointed a working party, and a workshop was undertaken at the 2015 Conference.

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Work from the 2014 Conference

Methodist Council					
32/5.	Methodist Council - The Conference directs the Methodist Council to undertake a review of the Mission Alongside the Poor programme with the terms of reference as set out in paragraph 2 and to report to the Conference no later than 2016. DR 5/6/5	the Council agreed process October 2014 Report in January 2016	2016	Support Services with input from other Clusters (including Discipleship and Ministries)	
M36 M37	Mission Alongside the Poor In addition, the Conference adopts a target of raising half a million pounds over the next three years specifically for the Mission Alongside the Poor programme (within the Mission in Britain Fund) alongside the proposed review to be undertaken by the Methodist Council. DR 5/19		2016	Mission and Advocacy	A date for any targets that are set will need to be provided to the Council with the review
M34	Standardised Job Descriptions - The Conference agrees that in order to ensure legal compliance and employment best practice it would be helpful for churches and Circuits to work on an already prepared outline pro forma job description and person specification. It also recognises that following the implementation of the <i>Safer Recruitment Policy</i> and <i>10 Steps Procedure for All Recruitment</i> there is a need to develop further guidelines and provide job description templates that will specifically relate to children, youth and families work. This would also include role outline templates for volunteers, line managers and management groups. The Conference therefore directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the Connexional Team develops such guideline templates, noting that template job descriptions for lay employees should be incorporated into the Lay Employment Advisory Information pack update in October 2015, and template role outlines for voluntary role made available through the Methodist Church website by the same time. DR 7/24	October 2015		Support Services	A brief report will be required for the Council
M35	Covenants of Care - ...The Conference ... refers this memorial to the Methodist Council and requests that the Council establishes a working group to review the arrangements for Covenants of Care and to formulate proposals. The working group should draw on the experience of the Safeguarding Advisory Panel and expertise within Districts, together with lessons learnt from the Past Cases Review, which is due to report to the 2015 Conference. The Conference requests that the Council report the conclusions of this review to the Conference no later than 2017. DR 6/18	October 2016	2017	Support Services	Terms of Reference being prepared for the Council to consider October 2015

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

<p>NOM 206</p>	<p>Resourcing Leadership - In the light of the General Secretary's report that urges the whole Connexion to “focus on those things that make for an ever better Church”, and the report of the working party which has reviewed the role of the Secretary of the Conference and General Secretary, the Conference:</p> <p>a) identifies a need for the church to be better resourced in the variety of leadership roles.</p> <p>b) judges that both ministers and lay people should be better enabled to discern and explore the gifts and graces that they offer in the service of the church, and therefore directs the Methodist Council:</p> <p>(1) to make available resources and training for this purpose; (2) to establish a working party to consider this need.</p> <p>The Conference further directs the working party, in collaboration with the Ministries Committee, to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mechanisms by which the church might enable ministers and lay people to explore their calling to the variety of leadership roles within the church, in-particular senior leadership roles • training, development and discernment opportunities to equip potential leaders to fulfil their calling. • how the Connexion might ensure greater representation of ministers from underrepresented groups (such as women, members of black and minority ethnic groups and those who are part of the missing generation ie under 45 years old) in the future leadership of the Methodist Church. <p>and to report to the Conference no later than 2016. DR 7/31</p>	<p>Working party appointed; workshop held at 2015 Conference.</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>2016</p>	<p>Links to Discipleship and Ministries and Conference Office</p>	
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<p>Faith and Order Committee</p>					
<p>35/2.</p>	<p>Faith and Order Committee - The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee to undertake work on the theology and nature of lay and ordained ministry in the Methodist Church. The Conference further reports that an interim report should be brought to the 2016 Conference, and a final report with any recommendations should be brought no later than the 2018 Conference. DR 5/24</p>		<p>Interim report 2016 Final report 2018</p>	<p>Conference Office in support of Faith and Order Committee</p>	
<p>M8</p>	<p>Church Stewards and Lay Leadership - The Conference ... directs the Faith and Order Committee to ensure that a review of the role and responsibilities of church stewards and other forms of</p>			<p>Conference Office in support of Faith and Order</p>	<p>Ministries Committee will confirm timeframe</p>

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

	lay leadership is included in the review of ministry in the Methodist Church and directs the Ministries Committee to review patterns of learning and development in this area. DR 7/24			Committee Discipleship and Ministries in support of Ministries Committee	
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The General Secretary					
31/2.	<p>General Secretary's Report</p> <p>A. The Conference directs the General Secretary to ensure that an appropriate working group is appointed to consider the issues raised in paragraphs 25 to 36 of the report (<i>Relationship Building</i>).</p> <p>B. The Conference directs the working group to make an interim report to the Methodist Council, and a final report with any proposals to the Conference as soon as possible.</p> <p>DR 5/5/1</p>	Working group appointed by the Council, October 2014 The Council received a report in April 2015 and agreed to establish a new group to report back to its meeting in January 2016.	2015 for update	Office of the General Secretary	Now with Secretary of the Conference/Connexional Secretary
31/4.	The Conference directs the General Secretary to ensure that an appropriate group is formed with the task of addressing the various issues and questions outlined in paragraphs 41 to 46 (<i>releasing resources for mission continued</i>) of the report, with a view to bringing guidelines and resolutions to the Methodist Council and the Conference as soon as possible. DR 5/5/1	Working group appointed October 2014 Report made to April 2015 Council and workshop held at 2015 Conference	2015 for update	Office of the General Secretary with Support Services	Now with Secretary of the Conference/Connexional Secretary

Safeguarding Advisory Panel					
34/2.	Safeguarding - The Conference directs the Safeguarding Advisory Panel to review its terms of reference with specific attention to its membership, decision making powers and the process for appeals. The Conference further directs that any proposals for change should be brought to the 2015 Conference. DR 7/14	April 2015	2015	Support Services	2015 Conference adopted changes creating a Safeguarding Committee in place of the SAP. Further

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

					changes to SOs to be brought to the 2016 Conference by the Law and Polity Committee
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General					
The Conference directs that a review be conducted into how discipline committees should respond in cases where there has been a conviction under sexual offences legislation. DR 6/27			2016	The Secretary of the Conference	

Task Group on Marriage and Relationships					
40/3.	Working Party on Marriage and Civil Partnerships -The Conference adopts the recommendation contained in paragraph 148 and directs the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee, in consultation with the group appointed under resolution 40/4 below to work, as a matter of priority, on the production and dissemination of clear guidance on what is, or is not, to be regarded as homophobia and, if thought appropriate, on a formal statement for the Conference to adopt on this matter.		If thought appropriate	Support Services with the Connexional Secretary	
40/4.	<p>Working Party on Marriage and Civil Partnerships</p> <p>a) The Conference adopts the recommendation contained in paragraph 157 and appoints a task group on marriage and relationships to be responsible for the implementation of the work. It recognises the significance and therefore the need for adequate resourcing and support of this work.</p> <p>b) The Conference directs that the tasks which the group shall work to implement shall be as follows:</p> <p>(i) to seek to engage the Church more widely in exploring the two major themes of</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">i. living with contradictory convictions, and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ii. the nature of the authority of the Bible by drawing upon the existing material produced connexionally and identifying other ways of resourcing and encouraging these conversations throughout the Church;</p> <p>(ii) within that context, to encourage and facilitate across the Connexion the process of reflection and discernment referred to in</p>	Task group to bring the proposals it plans to make to the Conference to the Council in April 2016.			

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

	<p>Resolution 40/2;</p> <p>(iii) to explore in depth the implications arising from the divergence between the Methodist Church's teaching on marriage and the legal definition and concept of marriage now applying in England, Wales and Scotland. These explorations should include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the missional challenges involved ii. the tradition and experience of the Christian Church in living in contexts where its values, teaching and practice as to marriage have not been shared with those of the surrounding society iii. the considerations for and against the continued involvement of the Methodist Church in the solemnization of (opposite sex) marriages; <p>(iv) to find ways to encourage Local Churches (and if thought necessary, equipping them with pastoral and teaching resources) to welcome same sex couples and their families and to enable their participation in the life and worship of the Church;</p> <p>(v) drawing as appropriate upon the theological material already produced by the Faith and Order Committee and in collaboration with that committee, to develop resources to help people to explore the teaching and practice of the Church in relation to cohabitation;</p> <p>(vi) to look at the range of other issues raised by paragraphs 92 to 101, to investigate what material is already available or could, within the financial and personnel resources available, be produced in order to encourage wider discussions about marriage and other relationships;</p> <p>(vii) to work with the EDI committee on the task directed by Resolution 40/3 above;</p> <p>(viii) to consider further the implications of the same sex marriage legislation for shared buildings not held on Methodist trusts and for those working in wider ecumenical contexts, and</p>		2015	<p>Faith and Order Committee</p> <p>EDI Committee</p>	
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Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

Work from the 2013 Conference

Resolution/Memorial/ Notices of Motion /Task	Cluster/team leading or liaising with others	Committee/body responsible	Actions to be taken (including any deadlines)	Work Not Done
Larger than Circuit				
35/4. a) The Conference resolves to appoint a coordinating group as recommended in paragraph 97, to be responsible for taking forward the process connexionally and for reporting regularly to the Methodist Council which shall have oversight of the work.	Connexional Secretary/ Assistant Secretary	Methodist Council	To report to the Council in January and April 2015. Further work to be done and report made to the October 2015 meeting of the Council	
c) The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the relevant members of the Connexional Team referred to in paragraph 96 work in conjunction with the coordinating group in carrying out this aspect of their work.	Connexional Secretary /Assistant Secretary	Methodist Council		
d) The Conference directs the co-ordinating group to work with those planning for 3Generate 2013 with the aim of enabling consultations to start at that event about the issues being explored.	Connexional Secretary /Assistant Secretary D&M – C&C	Co-ordinating Group	3Generate 2013 planning within C&C	
35/7. The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee to work with the coordinating group upon any proposals emerging from the process which would require an amendment to the Deed of Union, Model Trusts or Standing Orders and if necessary to bring such amendments to the Conference of 2015 for consideration.	Conference Office	Law and Polity Committee	2015 (if necessary)	

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

<p>35/9. a) The Conference adopts the recommendation in paragraph 109 that a group be appointed to review recent developments in the role of District Chair, particularly in relation to the exercise of personal and collegiate leadership connexionally, with a view to reporting to the Conference of 2015.</p> <p>b) The Conference authorises the Methodist Council to approve more detailed terms of reference for the group's work. [...]</p>	<p>Connexional Secretary /Assistant Secretary</p>	<p>Methodist Council</p>	<p>Methodist Council October 2014 in terms of b) Conference 2015</p>	<p>This work now forms part of the Larger than Circuit working party which will report to the Council during 2015/16</p>
<p>Methodist Council 44/11. The Conference directs the Faith & Order Committee, in consultation with the Methodist Diaconal Order, to undertake work on the theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate in Methodism, its place within the British Connexion and its place within the universal church.</p>	<p>Conference Office</p>	<p>Faith and Order Committee</p>	<p>No date – planned for the 2016 Conference</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Work from the Conference of 2012

Resolution/Memorials/Notices of Motion of the Conference 2012	Work to be undertaken by (eg committee or cluster)	Scheduled for SRC/Council	Deadline for report to Conference	Other Notes	Proposed priority rating A, B, C	Update
<p>R35/4. Faith and Order. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to explore with the Methodist Diaconal Order and the Ministries Committee the liturgical role of deacons within the Methodist Church and, if appropriate, find ways of affirming that.</p>	<p>Faith and Order Committee</p>	<p>April 2016</p>	<p>2016</p>		<p>B</p>	

Work Plan from the Conference 2015-2016

R35/5. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee, Fresh Ways Working Group Practitioners Forum and VentureFX Pioneers to explore: a. ways in which the Methodist Church can promote further hospitality, collaboration and mutuality between our orders of ministry	Faith and Order Committee		2019		B	Incorporated into the work on ministry, which is due to be brought to the Conference in 2019.
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Work from the 2011 Conference

Resolution/Memorial/Notice of Motion	Cluster responsible for liaising on / undertaking work	Work to be undertaken by (eg committee or cluster)	Scheduled for SRC/ Council	Deadline for report to Conference	Other Notes	Proposed priority rating A, B or C	Update
R57/6 The Methodist Council to consider whether a change in the timing of the induction of the President and Vice-President is desirable to enable the outgoing Vice-President as well as the outgoing President to report to the Conference on their year of office before handing over to their successors.	GS	Council	Council March 2012	Conference 2012		B	This work is now being taken up in the Accessibility to the Conference working party.