

World Methodist Committee Report 2015

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Draft Resolution	103/1. The Council receives the report of the World Methodist Committee.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To provide a summary of the work of the World Methodist Committee.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The next meeting of the World Methodist Council and Conference is in Houston, Texas from the 30 August – 5 September 2016. b) Churches, Circuits and Districts have been generous in their giving to the Achieving the Vision Fund but the Methodist Church in Britain is still some way off the target for this quinquennium. c) The Conference authorised three exchanges under the exchange of pastorate programme and authority for authorising exchanges during 2015/16 has been delegated to the Methodist Council. d) Plans are in place to improve communication about World Methodist Council activities within the Methodist Church in Britain. e) The Methodist Church continues to develop its partnership working with the World Methodist Council in relation to the Epworth Old Rectory, the Methodist Liaison office in Jerusalem and the Ecumenical Officers post in Rome. f) The World Methodist Council continues to operate its global ministry through a diverse range of activities and programmes.

World Methodist Committee Report

1. Introduction

The World Methodist Council has not met since the World Methodist Committee last reported to the Methodist Council. Therefore this is a brief report noting the activities of the committee and World Methodist Council during the past year and the preparations for the next World Methodist Council meeting.

2. Next Meeting of the World Methodist Council and the 20th World Methodist Conference

The World Methodist Council will next meet in Houston, Texas from 30-31 August (the last meeting of the 2011-2016 quinquennium) and 4-5 September 2015 (the first meeting of the 2016-2021 quinquennium). Between these meetings the 21st World Methodist Conference will take place with the theme *One*. While Council meetings are only for those delegates elected by the member churches, the Conference itself is a celebration of the diversity and faith of the global Methodist family and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The committee was delighted to note that both the Revd Dr Joanne Cox-Darling and the Revd Professor David Wilkinson from Britain have accepted invitations to be keynote speakers at the Conference. The Methodist Church in Britain delegates for the 2016-2021 quinquennium were appointed by the 2015 Methodist Conference (see Agenda section 49).

3. Achieving the Vision

The committee has continued to advocate the Achieving the Vision Fund which aims to provide a permanent source of funding for the global ministry of the World Methodist Council. We are extremely grateful to those churches, circuits and districts who have generously given but are still some way off the target of 50p per member per year for the five years of the 2011-2016 quinquennium, so there will be a final push during this connexional year.

4. Exchange of Pastorate Programme

The 2015 Conference approved three exchanges under the World Methodist Council Exchange of Pastorate Programme, two with ministers from the United Methodist Church and one from the United Church of Canada. In preparation for a change to Standing Orders in 2016, and to enable the timetable to operate more effectively and with greater certainty for participants, the Conference also delegated to the Council approval of exchanges to take place during the connexional year 2015/16. Names will be brought as they become known. Work continues to expand the programme to enable exchanges with more member churches.

5. Communication with the Connexion

The committee has worked with staff in the communications team in the Connexional Team and at the *Methodist Recorder* to try and improve the dissemination of information about the World Methodist Council. In preparation for the World Methodist Conference in 2016, this will mean more information about World Methodist Council activities in *The Week Ahead* email and a regular feature in the *Methodist Recorder*.

6. Meetings with World Methodist Council Officers

The President, Connexional Team staff and officers of the World Methodist Committee met in various combinations with the officers of the World Methodist Council (President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Treasurer) in February and with the General Secretary in June. Matters discussed included the Epworth Old Rectory, the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem and the Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome, all of which involve partnerships in various ways between the Methodist Church in Britain, the World Methodist Council and others. Contributions were also made to the ongoing discussions about the strategic direction

of the WMC and its ways of working to enable it to be an effective global voice and meeting place for the worldwide Methodist family. We were also delighted that the World Methodist Council General Secretary has accepted the invitation of a permanent working space at Methodist Church House which he will use on occasion throughout the year beginning in 2016. This is part of a wider initiative to enable the General Secretary to work from four bases across the globe as well as from the WMC headquarters in the USA.

7. Activities of the World Methodist Council

The World Methodist Council has continued to operate its global ministry through the work of its staff, officers and standing committees during the past year. Full details of the council's activities may be found on their website (worldmethodistcouncil.org) and Methodist Council members are encouraged to look particularly at the *First Friday Newsletter* archive to see the breadth and diversity of the work (firstfridayletter.worldmethodistcouncil.org) but these five things give a flavour of what has been done during the last year. The World Methodist Council:

- a. Began planning for the 4th International young leader's seminar to take place in 2016.
- b. Contributed to world debate and offered practical support where appropriate on a range of social and international affairs including the church shootings in Charleston, the earthquake in Nepal and against xenophobia in a growing number of contexts.
- c. Engaged in a number of global ecumenical dialogues including the publication of *Into All the World: Being and Becoming Apostolic Churches* by the Anglican-Methodist International Commission on Unity and Mission.
- d. Supported the work of Methodist evangelism throughout the world, which sees global Methodism growing by 1,000,000 people per year.
- e. Awarded the Methodist Peace Prize to Marion and Anita Way for their lifetimes' work in promoting peace and justice in Angola and Brazil.

*****RESOLUTION**

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