

Review of the Derby Resolutions

– Soundings Paper

In 2006 the Methodist Conference passed Resolution number 40/9, which set up a consultation throughout the connexion on whether the 1993 Derby Conference resolutions on Human Sexuality should be revised, and if so, what changes should be made.

The Church would like to hear from you about whether you think the Derby Resolutions should be revised, or if you want them to remain unchanged, and to say why. This is the first stage in a two-stage process. If the feeling within the Church is that they should be changed, the second stage will begin in late 2007, and would look at exactly how they might be changed. This would involve a thorough consultation throughout the Church and with ecumenical partners and the world Methodist family.

Responses to this sounding-out process are invited from individual Methodists, Methodist groups and other interested parties. The views of Church and Circuit Meetings as well as Synods would also be welcome.

The **Derby Resolutions** are:

1. The Conference, affirming the joy of human sexuality as God's gift and the place of every human being within the grace of God, recognizes the responsibility that flows from this for us all. It therefore welcomes the serious, prayerful and sometimes costly consideration given to this issue by the Methodist Church.
2. All practices of sexuality which are promiscuous, exploitative or demeaning in any way are unacceptable forms of behaviour and contradict God's purposes for us all.
3. A person shall not be debarred from the church on the grounds of sexual orientation in itself.
4. The Conference reaffirms the traditional teaching of the Church on human sexuality; namely chastity for all outside marriage and fidelity within it. The Conference directs that this affirmation is made clear to all candidates for ministry, office and membership, and having established this affirms that the existing procedures of our church are adequate to deal with all such cases.
5. The Conference resolves that its decisions in this debate shall not be used to form the basis of a disciplinary charge against any person in relation to conduct alleged to have taken place before such decisions were made.
6. Conference recognizes, affirms and celebrates the participation and ministry of lesbians and gay men in the church. Conference calls on the Methodist people to begin a pilgrimage of faith to combat repression and discrimination, to work for justice and human rights and to give dignity and worth to people whatever their sexuality.

The Methodist Council has appointed a Working Group to monitor the process and to make recommendations once the soundings have been taken. The Working Group members are: Nigel T Collinson (Chair), Sylvester Deigh, Barbara Duchars, David Gamble, Brenda Mosedale, Leo Osborn, Hannah Reed & Richard Vautrey. The Working Group is being administered by David Bradwell from the Connexional Team.

QUESTION ONE

Do you think the Derby Resolutions should be revised?

Please give reasons for your answer.

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QUESTION TWO

If the answer to the first question is 'yes', what changes would you suggest?

Again, please give reasons.

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This response is from: (please tick)

an individual

a group

If you have ticked group, please say which one.

Signature:

How to Respond

The deadline for responses is Friday 29 June 2007.

Please send your views to:

David Bradwell, Derby Resolutions Review, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

E-mail: bradwelld@methodistchurch.org.uk

All responses will be kept confidential. This process was established by the 2006 Methodist Conference as a result of the Pilgrimage of Faith report.

For further information please visit

www.methodist.org.uk