

REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

09:15 Opening Prayers

09:30 Administration

Agenda Item 32: Ministry in the Methodist Church (Agenda pages 366-421)

Resolution 32/1 (Agenda page 369)

Resolutions 32/2, 32/3 (Agenda page 405)

Resolution 32/4 (Agenda page 421)

Notice of Motion 109: Church stewards and lay leadership

Resolution 32/5 (Agenda page 421)

Notice of Motion 102: Joint work on ministry

Resolutions 32/6, 32/7 (Agenda page 421)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Agenda Item 21: Methodist Council part 3** (Agenda pages 184-278, Order Paper page 17)

SECTION I: General Report

Resolution 21/1. (Agenda page 194)

SECTION M: Future of the Senior Leadership Group

Resolutions 21/7, 21/8 (Agenda page 200)

SECTION N: Ministries Committee

Resolution 21/9 (Agenda page 218)

Resolutions 21/10, 21/11, 21/12 (Agenda page 219)

Notice of Motion 104: Resolution 21/12

Resolution 21/13 (Agenda page 219)

Resolution 21/14 (Order Paper page 17)

Resolution 21/15 (Agenda page 219)

Resolutions 21/17, 21/18 (Order Paper page 18)

SECTION O: Training for Ordained Ministries

Resolution 21/19 (Page 227)

SECTION Q: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Standing Order changes

Resolution 21/25 (Page 236)

Notice of Motion 103: Resolution 21/25

SECTION R: The Unfinished Agenda

Resolution 21/26 (Page 237)

SECTION U: Legal and Property Support for Managing Trustees

Resolution 21/32 (Page 243)

Agenda Item 15: Methodist Homes (Agenda pages 137-140)
Resolutions 15/1, 15/2 (Agenda page 140)

12:45 Lunch

14:15 **Agenda Item 22: Methodist Ministers' Housing Society** (Agenda pages 279-281)
Resolution 22/1 (Agenda page 281)

Session resourced by the President and Vice-President: Scriptural Reasoning

16:15 Tea Break

16:45 **Agenda Item 13: Connexional Allowances Committee** (Agenda pages 94-127)
Resolutions 13/1, 13/2, 13/3 (Agenda page 127)
Notice of Motion 107: Connexional Allowances Committee
Resolution 13/4 (Agenda page 127)

Memorial M14: Payment for manse water supplies

Agenda Item 34: Connexional Allowances Committee – care of supernumerary ministers and their dependants (Agenda pages 470-485)
Resolutions 34/1, 34/2, 34/3 (Agenda page 481)

Agenda Item 20: Methodist Council Part 2: The response to the Training Review
(Agenda pages 169-183)
Resolution 20/1 (Agenda page 183)

Closed Session

Evening prayers

18:45 Adjourn

FIRST REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

The Conference Financial Committee has considered the notices of motion printed yesterday and makes the following comments.

In relation to Notice of Motion 2018/102: Provision of Feedback for Ministers:
As the existing proposal already asks for a substantial piece of work to be done, and this just ensures the inclusion of one particular piece of business, it will have minimal impact on budgets. However, it is noted that there are already considerable work pressures on these committees and the Secretariat so there will be knock on effects for other pieces of work.

In relation to Notice of Motion 2018/201: Models of Trusteeship:
Substantial additional piece of work utilising significant staff time with consequent cancellation or delay of other work.

In relation to Notice of Motion 2018/202: Joint Work on Ministry:
As the existing proposal already asks for a substantial piece of work to be done, and this just ensures the inclusion of one particular piece of business, it will have minimal impact on

budgets. However, it is noted that there are already considerable work pressures on these committees and the Secretariat so there will be knock on effects for other pieces of work.

***RESOLUTION

F/1. The Conference receives the Report.

NOTE FROM THE LAW AND POLITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Proposed Notice of Motion

The text in quotation marks below is included in a Notice of Motion received within the specified time limits. The Notice of Motion also included proposed additional resolutions and draft amendments to Standing Orders. The Conference Law and Polity Conference sub-committee was of the opinion that further work was needed on the draft. This was accepted by the proposer and seconder, but they wished to ensure that the Conference was aware of the general tenor of the Notice of Motion as early as possible.

“The Conference expresses its thanks to the Marriage and Relationships Task Group for the care they have taken to reach this point. It is deeply disappointing that a draft statement could not be brought to the Conference this year as directed. The Conference recognises that the emerging theology of marriage and relationships does need full and careful consideration but that such consideration will not, in itself, address the specific question of whether some Methodist Churches could be venues for solemnising same-sex marriages and whether any Methodist ministers, members or probationers could officiate at such services.

The Conference believes that the missional imperative of this question, and the need to give a clear message of continued affirmation and love to LGBT+ members of the Methodist Church, require that this question be clearly answered before 2020 or 2021. It is already five years since legislation to allow Same-Sex Marriages was passed in England and Wales and legislation in Scotland was passed the following year. The Conference is aware that there are some ministers, members and probationers and churches who would gladly participate in the solemnisation of same-sex marriages as well as those who would not feel able in conscience to do so. The Conference believes we must try to honour the consciences of all in this area. This could be done by allowing those ministers and churches who feel so called by God to solemnise same-sex marriages, whilst protecting the right of those who do not wish to do so to refrain.”

The proposals of this Notice of Motion would also include (among other amendments) amending Standing Order O11A to read:-

O11A Marriage. (1) The Methodist Church believes that marriage is a gift of God and that it is God’s intention that a marriage should be a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of one man and one woman. The Methodist Church welcomes everyone, whether or not a member, who enquires about an intended marriage in any of its places of worship.

(1A) Some Methodists believe that God also gives the gift of marriage to same-sex couples, intending it to be a life-long union in body, mind and spirit.

By the other amendments, the Conference will be asked:

- To allow same-sex marriages to take place in buildings where the managing trustees so permit, with no obligation on other trustee bodies to do so
- To allow those who feel called to do so to solemnise same-sex marriage.

- To expand the existing conscience provision so that no obligation whatsoever is placed on ministers, probationers and members to make referrals in the case of same-sex marriages.
- To opt-in to the relevant legislation in England and Wales, and in Scotland, in order to give effect to the above.
- To ask the task group to continue its work on an updated statement on the nature of marriage.

The option will be placed before the Conference that the resolutions implementing this, if passed, be treated as provisional legislation under Standing Order 122. If the Conference chose this option, this would mean that they would be referred to the Districts for consultation and return to the Conference in 2019 to be confirmed, confirmed with amendments or declined.
