

Update on work from the Conference

MC/23/77

Date of meeting	19-20 October 2023
Contact name and details	Doug Godfrey-Swanney, Connexional Secretary cs@methodistchurch.org.uk (Members of the Council are invited to raise questions about the detail of this report with the Connexional Secretary prior to the Council so that Team members can provide more information).

Following the Conference, a full list of all its decisions that require action from the Council, the Team or other bodies is compiled and reviewed by the Senior Management Group of the Connexional Team. Items on this workplan are allocated to parts of the Team where that is appropriate or referred to committees or working groups. This is shown in the workplan which is reproduced here as an appendix to this report. The Council is asked to note that this does not represent the totality of work undertaken by the Connexional Team, or by the Committees of the Council or the Conference, but gives an indication of new pieces of work or other particular directions of the Conference.

The Council is asked to note the following updates on work from the 2023 Conference and previous Conferences.

1. Items from the 2022 Conference referred to Local Churches, Circuits and Districts

The following matters which were brought before the 2022 Conference remain on the agenda of the Connexional Team, but are now removed from the workplan since they require no further reporting back:

- Resolution 29/2: The Conference encourages Local Churches to think about how they nurture growth in holiness, how members support each other's discipleship, and how these might be re-prioritised within local church life.
- Resolution 10/2: The Conference encourages Local Preachers' Meetings and Circuit Leadership Teams to explore and promote a variety of worship styles which involve praying together, inviting open discussions about faith, and celebrate intergenerational learning.
- Resolution 10/3: The Conference encourages churches to address children and young people's passion for growing a deeper faith by exploring the question, "how can we make our Church a more praying Church?" by adding this to the agenda of all Church Council meetings before the 2023/ 2024 connexional year.
- Resolution 10/4: The Conference urges circuit staff teams to review how young people under the age of 23 might be more intentionally and actively supported to consider their calling and be guided onto local preaching/ worship leading or other relevant courses.
- Notice of Motion 2022/206: the Conference urges all churches to consider what it would mean to become a Church of Sanctuary and to take deliberate steps to become recognised as such
- Notice of Motion 2022/203: The Conference urges churches around the Connexion to consider how they can each welcome refugees (through ideas such as welcome cafes), and urges the Methodist people to write to their MPs in protest.
- Memorial M10(2022): The Methodist Conference commends the Korean Peace Appeal and urges Synods, Circuits, Local Churches and individuals to sign the Korean Peace Appeal in solidarity with ecumenical partners in Korea.

2. JDS updates

EDI Advisor Bevan Powell had been invited to attend and observe the Stationing Matching process in connexional year 2022/23, to better understand the stationing process and to make appropriate recommendations for improvement in the process in terms of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). His report outlining observations and recommendations was submitted in late spring to the Stationing Review Group for consideration. The Methodist Church in Britain is committed to becoming a truly inclusive Church, this report is considered a necessary step on the journey to achieving this aspiration.

Notice of Motion 2020/104 directed that 'the directory returns for all ministers and probationers include

ethnic monitoring, and that online stationing profiles include the monitoring of all aspects of diversity.' The Council was directed 'to determine how the data... are to be most effectively recorded and analysed'. By way of update, it is reported that systems are now in place to collect the diversity data on ministers and that work continues to ensure that this data is appropriately and sensitively analysed. The management of stationing profiles will be considered as part of the wider review of stationing processes.

3. Memorials M4 and M5 (2017)

The following memorials were brought to the 2017 Conference:

M4 Candidating for ministers seeking to move from Presbyter to Deacon or vice versa

The Cardiff (2/9) Circuit Meeting (Present: 45; Voting: 40 for, 1 against) gives thanks for the various callings upon the lives of the people called Methodists, given by God and tested by the Church. We recognise that within the lay community it is common for people to be called to roles for a period of time and to then sense a call to a new ministry. As a Circuit, we recognise that occasionally those called and ordained as presbyters and deacons may also sense a call from God to explore another form of ministry. It is in this context that we express concerns over the various processes currently in place to discern if a deacon is called to be a presbyter, or a presbyter is called to be a deacon.

The process whereby someone offers to change order of ministry is set out in Standing Order 718. The Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (MCPOC) has responsibility for determining what of the material asked of other candidates shall be required in this process. At present, the process gives no recognition that the candidate has previously undertaken a similar, if not identical process, when they originally candidated.

The Circuit Meeting believes that the current process lacks an acknowledgement of the skills and graces already seen in such a candidate and that the process can devalue the worth of a candidate who is testing a call from God to change from one form of ordained ministry to another.

The Circuit Meeting requests that the Conference directs the Connexional Team member responsible for Oversight of Ordained Ministries to review with MCPOC the current interpretation of SO 718 and to make recommendations for a new process that recognises the assessment made at the time of their original call and which seeks to test clearly the reasons for the change of call being expressed by the candidate together with any further requirements needed in relation to the new role.

The Circuit Meeting recognises that the work currently undertaken by the Faith and Order Committee on 'Ministry in the Methodist Church' will explore the relationship between the two orders, and asks that consideration be given by the working party to how a minister might appropriately explore a call to move between orders and whether SO 718 needs to be revised.

The Circuit Meeting recognises the sensitivity of this issue in particular in relation to the Diaconal Order when a member of the Order seeks to become a presbyter and asks that the Warden of the Order be fully involved in the reviews requested in this memorial.

Reply

The Conference thanks the Cardiff Circuit Meeting for its memorial which raises an important question.

The Methodist Church's understanding of diaconal and presbyteral ministry is that they are two distinct (though equal) orders in which ministers serve the Church in different ways. It has also affirmed that presbyteral or diaconal ministry is not simply about the functions which presbyters or deacons undertake as part of God's mission but about the identity of the minister and the way in which they inhabit their calling in and on behalf of the Church. Therefore, the parallel with the way in which a lay person might serve in one role for a period of time and then take up another is not exact. For that reason, it has been expected that the process of changing orders necessarily involves a process of discernment equivalent though not identical to that undertaken by a lay person offering for ordained ministry.

The memorial indicates that the current understanding of the need to candidate as if from the beginning has been interpreted by some as denying the significance of the earlier discernment processes that the minister undertook and the years of formation and ministerial experience that she or he has had. That is regrettable and was never the intention of those who devised the current

processes. Inevitably, the Church continues to learn about and from its ministers whose vocations develop in unexpected ways and has a duty to enable a process of testing that honours both who the minister is and the theology of ministry that it proclaims. The Conference therefore accepts the memorial and directs the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee to consult with the Faith and Order Committee and to bring a fuller response to the 2019 Conference.

M5 *The Wales Synod, Presbyteral Session (Present: 70; Voting: unanimous)*

This memorial was received with the same text as M4. The Conference adopted the same reply.

The Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee gave some initial thought to this memorial, but since then the Conference has adopted new candidating procedures. The 2023 Conference adopted the Standing Orders to bring those new processes into effect, including Standing Orders relating to the change of order of ministry. It is therefore believed that consideration of the points raised in the memorial have been incorporated into the work on the new candidating procedures, and that this work can therefore be considered to be complete. The Council will report this to the Conference and recommend it as a further reply to the memorials.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

77/1. The Council receives the report.

77/2. The Council recommends to the Conference that it adopts paragraph 3 of this report as its further reply to Memorials M4 and M5 (2017).

Work from the 2023 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
3.	Methodist Council, part 1				
3/13	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to recommend and approve a revised steering group for the work going forward with appropriate representation from: I. Place for Hope II. Chairs of District III. The Connexional Team. [DR 5/4]	October 2023		Richard Armiger	October appointments paper
12.	A justice-seeking Church: the report of the Walking with Micah project.				
12/2	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to agree a plan to enable and embed the proposals and suggestions set out between paragraphs 210 and 215 of the report in collaboration with key stakeholders and oversee its implementation. [DR 6/7]	January 2024		Rachel Lampard/ Jude Levermore	
12/3	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to review at least every five years through a transparent and participative process the Principles, Priorities and Practices adopted in this report to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Methodist Church and the word. [DR 6/7]	2028			
22.	Methodist Council, part 2				
22/24	The Conference directs the Council to appoint a Resource group to undertake a review of the Conference Statement, <i>Hope in God's future</i> , and to report to the Conference no later than 2025. [DR 5/12]	October 2023	2025	Hamish/ DMS	October appointments paper
Memorials					
M14	Review of Part 11 of Standing Orders "The Conference, by way of interim reply, refers it to the Methodist Council for consideration by those working on the Part 11 Review. [DR 5/6/2]"			COLCP	Part 11 Review
M20	SO 650(6) The Conference, therefore by way of interim reply, refers the memorial to the Methodist Council, in conjunction with the Law and Polity Committee, for consideration and report to the Conference of 2024, if possible. [DR 7/24/6]		2024	COLCP	With Law and Polity Committee
M23	Data Protection The Conference, therefore, by way of interim reply, refers this memorial to the Council to investigate with the Connexional IT Team and TMCP what options might be available to make the completion of the Data Protection Checklist easier for managing trustees, and to report back to the Conference of 2024.		2024	Matt Tattersall	With Connexional IT Team/ Laura Kent

Faith and Order Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
27.	Online Church				
27/4	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee....to consider what work would be needed in order to enable predominantly online churches to be lawfully recognised within the <i>Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church</i> and to propose appropriate resolutions to the Conference of 2024. [DR 6/3]		2024	Secretary of the F&O Committee	In consultation with the Law and Polity Committee
21.	Faith and Order Committee				
21/4	The Conference direct the Faith and Order Committee to bring the work required by resolution 45/2 of the Conference of 2022 to the Conference of 2024. [DR 7/12]			Secretary of the F&O Committee	
29.	Review of criteria for authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper				
29/5	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with the Authorisations Committee to keep the new criteria under review and to bring any further recommendations necessary to a future Conference. [DR 7/22]			Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee	
29/6	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to explore whether the practice of Extended Communion in the Methodist Church might be widened and to report to the Conference with appropriate recommendations. [DR 7/22]			Secretary of the F&O Committee	
	Memorials				
M17	Membership and Statistics for Mission The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee and those engaged in the review of the Annual Returns to note its comments.				

Law and Polity Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
57.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
NoM 2023/1 01	Section C of the Oversight and Trusteeship Report The Conference....directs the Law and Polity Committee: to consider and report to the Conference of 2024 on the questions (1) how any dispute between the Conference and the Connexional Council would be resolved, and (2) how and in what circumstances members of the Connexional Council might be removed (whether or not in the event of such a dispute); and to bring to that Conference any amendments to Standing Orders which the Committee recommends should be made in light of the report.		2024	COLCP	
27.	Online Church				
27/4	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with		2024	Secretary of the	In consultation with the

	the Law and Polity Committee to consider what work would be needed in order to enable predominantly online churches to be lawfully recognised within the <i>Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church</i> and to propose appropriate resolutions to the Conference of 2024. [DR 6/3]			F&O Committee	Faith and Order Committee
44.	Necessitous Local Preachers Fund (NLPF)				
44/4	The Conference directs the new trustees of the NLPF, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to propose amendments to modernise and clarify the terms and powers of the Trust Deed and to report to the 2024 Conference.		2024	Bob Bartindale	
44/5	The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in consultation with the NLPF trustees and the Law and Polity Committee to devise new rules for the administration of grants from the Fund and to bring these rules to the 2024 Conference for approval.		2024	Bob Bartindale	With the Ministries Committee

Memorials

M15/1 6	Funding the payment of a stipend for a minister during long-term absence The Conference directs the Ministries Committee in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee to review and amend the text of Standing Order 365(7) in line with the current de facto policy. [DR 5/18/2]			SoC	In consultation with the Ministries Committee.
M20	SO 650(6) The Conference, therefore by way of interim reply, refers the memorial to the Methodist Council, in conjunction with the Law and Polity Committee, for consideration and report to the Conference of 2024, if possible. [DR 7/24/6]		2024		With the Council

Local Churches, Circuits and Districts		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
20.	3Generate 2022 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly				
20/4	The Conference encourages churches, Circuits and Districts to raise awareness of and actively find ways to resource and support children and young people in attending Christian youth events in addition to 3Generate. [DR 6/15/4]			CYF/ Jude Levermore	Check that events are suitable, and Comms will advertise them.
20/5	The Conference further encourages every Circuit to engage in ongoing conversation with their District Ambassador in respect of the support given to children and young people in attending Christian youth events in addition to 3Generate. [DR 6/15/4]				Ensure that there is support in place for this.
27.	Online Church				
27/3	The Conference requests all....district committees....to consider the implications for them if provisions for predominantly online churches were to be made by the Conference, and to submit their observations and comments to the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee by 31 January 2024. [DR 6/3]			Secretary of the F&O Committee	

Ministries Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
44.	Necessitous Local Preacher Fund (NLPF)				
44/5	The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in consultation with the NLPF trustees and the Law and Polity Committee to devise new rules for the administration of grants from the Fund and to bring these rules to the 2024 Conference for approval.		2024	Bob Bartindale	With Law and Polity Committee
57.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
57/8	The Conference receives Section D of the Report The Ministries Committee should during 2023-24 review in consultation with the OTTG what bodies are necessary for their work and bring proposals for the continuance, phasing out or adaptation of committees and subgroups to the Conferences of 2024 and/or 2025.		2024/ 2025	ASC	With OTTG work, produce template for the review.
Memorials					
M14	Ministerial Development Review The Conference declines the proposal to remove MDR, it recognises that there is further work to be done, in order for "Renewing Full Connexion" to bear fruit in the life of the church and directs the Ministries Committee to consider these matters and to report to the Conference of 2025.		2025	Director of Ministry Development	
M15/16	Funding the payment of a stipend for a minister during long-term absence The Conference directs the Ministries Committee in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee to review and amend the text of Standing Order 365(7) in line with the current de facto policy. [DR 5/18/2]			SoC	In consultation with the Law and Polity Committee
Mission Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
22.	Methodist Council part 2				
NoM 2023/104	Mission Partner Programme The Conference recognises that there have been detailed deliberations within the committees it asks for ongoing reflection by the Global Relationships Committee and the Mission Committee and for this to be reported to the Methodist Council as they implement the changes outlined in the report. [DR 7/17/4]			Mission Team/ Conrad Hicks	
57.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
57/8	The Conference receives Section D of the Report The Mission Committee should during 2023-24 review in consultation with the OTTG what bodies are necessary for their work and bring proposals for the continuance, phasing out or adaptation of committees and subgroups to the Conferences of 2024 and/or 2025.		2024/ 2025	ASC	Tie in with Ministries Committee side of this. With OTTG work.

Learning Network		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
22.	Methodist Council, Part 2				
22/21	The Conference adopts the Report as its further reply to M15. [DR 5/5] “recommended that the Learning Network takes forward the following aspects for the memorial M15 a, c, e, f and g”			Richard Armiger/ Tim Carter	Working with the Safeguarding Team on point F.

Safeguarding Team		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
22.	Methodist Council, Part 2				
22/21	The Conference adopts the Report as its further reply to M15. [DR 5/5] “the Safeguarding Team will be able to undertake the work involved to include the “anti-harassment policy” as part of the overall review of the Safeguarding Policy during 2023.....presented to the Safeguarding Committee, Methodist Council and the Methodist Conference.	2024?	2024?	Richard Armiger/ Tim Carter	

Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
57.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
57/15	The Conference appoints the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group to serve until the Conference of 2024 and directs it to report to the Conference of 2024 with proposals on the completion of the work detailed in Sections D and F above. [DR		2024		OTTG project plan

Strategy and Resources Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
57.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
57/8	The Conference receives Section D of the Report “It [OTTG] proposes that the SRC bring proposals (via the continuing OTTG) to the Conference of 2024 for provision for those committees or other bodies that will be necessary for the Resourcing Committee to do its work.		2024		

Conference Scrutiny Sub Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
22.	Methodist Council, part 2, Section L				
22/6	It is recognised that this will be an evolving process.....This will then be followed up by a fuller report to the Council in October 2023 with recommendations for the Terms of Reference of the new Conference Scrutiny Sub Committee.	October 2023		Doug Godfrey- Swanney	

Work from the 2022 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
FIRST REPORT OF THE LAW AND POLITY CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE					
Methodist Council – Impact					
LP/5	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to carry out further work to determine the details of the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee (including its membership and its relationship with the Business Committee) and following collaboration and consultation with the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee and the Law and Polity Committee to bring Standing Orders for the establishment of the Conference Scrutiny Sub-committee to the Conference of 2023. [DR 8/48/10]		2023	Connexional Secretary	L&P
Memorials					
M12	Energy Efficiency Rating of Methodist Buildings and Standing Order 973 The Conference, therefore, refers this memorial to the Methodist Council to allow the practical, financial and policy issues raised to be more fully explored. [DR 8/10]			Connexional Secretary	Property, Action for Hope
M20	Safeguarding: The Conference refers this memorial to the Council to be considered by those working on the review of Part 11. [DR 8/6/2]		2023	COLCP	Part 11 Review
M21	District Safeguarding Officers: The Conference refers this memorial to the Council, directing that it be considered as part of the work required by 44/14 if adopted or in its own right if not. [DR 7/18]	January 2024		Doug/JRH meeting with Tim Carter	Work over next year on a number of aspects

Faith and Order Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
27.	Marriage and Relationships				
27/3	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to keep marriage and relationships on its agenda and to bring a report to the 2025 Conference that enables the Conference to decide whether any further work is required. [DR 6/3/4]		2025	F&O	
NoM 2022/ 102	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to bring a report on singleness to the Conference of 2024. [DR 6/3/2]		2024	F&O	
29.	Methodist Membership in the 21st Century				
29/3	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to consider the		2024		

	matters described in paragraph 5.3 of this Report and report to the 2024 Conference. [DR 6/20/3]				
40.	Deliverance Ministry				
40/3	The Conference directs the Ministries Committee....to bring further revised guidance for deliverance ministry to the 2024 Conference. [DR 5/20/3]		2024		With the Ministries Committee.
45.	Oversight, Trusteeship and Leadership				
45/2	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee to bring a report on the Role of the District Chair to the 2023 Conference. [DR 7/17]		2024		With the Ministries Committee
NoM 2022/ 201	Healing Ministry and Neurodiverse Conditions: 1. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to consider new guidance on healing ministry, ensuring that the experiences of those who may joyfully embrace the gifts that their condition brings to their lives are heard. 2. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee specifically to consider whether prayers for healing for certain conditions should be prohibited. [DR 7/27/1]		2024		With JDS Committee

Local Churches, Circuits and Districts		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
	Memorials				
M13	Climate Change and Energy Efficiency of Manses Directs that the EPC rating of a manse be given on all circuit stationing profiles. [DR 8/10]				This has been added to the profile forms.

Ministries Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
40.	Deliverance Ministry				
40/3	The Conference directs the Ministries Committee....to bring further revised guidance for deliverance ministry to the 2024 Conference. [DR 5/20/3]		2024		With F&O
44.	Oversight and Trusteeship				
44/17	The Conference....directs the Ministries Committee to continue its work on processes of discernment for senior roles and to report to the 2023 Conference. [DR 8/8/1]		2023		
45.	Oversight, Trusteeship and Leadership				
45/2	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee to bring a report on the Role of the District Chair to the 2023 Conference. [DR 7/17]		2024		With F&O
	Memorials				
M17	The Conference directs		2023	ASC	with the Stationing Review

	<p>a) The Ministries and Stationing Committees to consider in their review of stationing processes the issues raised in this memorial, including to:</p> <p>i) Develop and publish criteria for enabling the consistent consideration of posts that require permission to advertise (or any similar process), and to</p> <p>ii) Ensure that such adjustments are allowed for or made as may be needed to allow for recruitment and appointment to joint ecumenical ministerial posts (and not merely on a rotational basis), so as to respect and embody the Methodist Church's Priorities.....including to enable working "in partnership with others wherever possible". [DR 5/4/6]</p>				
M13	<p>Climate Change and Energy Efficiency of Manses Directs the Ministries Committee to consider what action needs to be taken to ensure that no minister is expected to live in a manse that would not meet current minimum requirements for a rental property. [DR 8/10]</p>			Stephen Hetherington	Ministries Committee look at it – a briefing note to be prepared

Stationing Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
17.	Methodist Council, part 2, section N Ministries Committee				
	Memorials				
M17	<p>The Conference directs</p> <p>a) The Ministries and Stationing Committees to consider in their review of stationing processes the issues raised in this memorial, including to:</p> <p>i) Develop and publish criteria for enabling the consistent consideration of posts that require permission to advertise (or any similar process), and to</p> <p>ii) Ensure that such adjustments are allowed for or made as may be needed to allow for recruitment and appointment to joint ecumenical ministerial posts (and not merely on a rotational basis), so as to respect and embody the Methodist Church's Priorities.....including to enable working "in partnership with others wherever possible".</p>			ASC	with the Stationing Review

Work from the 2021 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
14.	Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme				
14/9	The Conference delegates to the Methodist Council the review of the contract in 2024 and the ability to extend the contract for a period of up to three years ending August 2027. [DR 6/5/5]	March 2024	n/a	DoFR	FSC in consultation with the Pension Trustees
56.	Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity: working towards a fully inclusive Methodist Church.				
M21	The Conference accepts the memorial and directs the group reviewing Part 11 to include it in its work. [DR 8/4/14]	n/a	2023	COLCP	Part 11 Review

Faith and Order Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
39.	Holy Communion and Online Worship				
39/4	The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to receive feedback on the period of discernment and to report to the Conference of 2024 with further recommendations. [DR 6/22/1]	n/a	2024		

Stationing Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
56.	Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity: working towards a fully inclusive Methodist Church				
NoM 2021/1 11	The Conference directs the Stationing Committee to continue to work with the EDI Officer and EDI Committee (in whatever form it may be after Conference discusses Report 56: The strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity) to ensure that the structures and procedures of the stationing processes are equally accessible to all. [DR 8/4/12]			ASC	Include in the stationing review
26.	Changing Patterns of Ministry				
26/15	The Conference directs the Stationing Committee to review the aspects of the stationing matching process described in paragraph 5.2.5 and report to the 2022 Conference. [DR 8/7]	n/a	2022	ASC	Stationing review
26/16	The Conference directs the Stationing Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee to review Standing Order 780 and report to the 2022 Conference. [DR 8/7]	March 2023	2023	ASC	Paper to go to Ministries Committee

Ministries Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
40.	Reflective Supervision				
40/4	The Conference directs that a review of the implementation of the policy,		2026	Director for Ministry	Allow time for CC to

	including its extension to relevant lay roles, be brought to the Conference of 2026. [DR 6/9]			Development, Supervision Reference Group	reflect upon it, noting resource implications.
26.	Changing Patterns of Ministry				
26/16	The Conference directs the Stationing Committee in consultation with the Ministries Committee to review Standing Order 780 and report to the 2022 Conference. [DR 8/7]	March 2023	2023	ASC	See above – with stationing review

The Secretary of the Conference		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
26.	Changing Patterns of Ministry				
26/5	The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to consider whether any further work is required on the matters raised in section 3 of this report and to report to the Methodist Council in October 2022. [DR 6/13/3]	October 2022			

Work from the 2020 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
2.	Methodist Council Part 1				
2/2b	The Conference directs the Methodist Council to produce and implement a robust, independent and transparent system for monitoring and reviewing stationing outcomes with regard to EDI concerns and to report to the Conference of 2022. [DR 4/8/5]	January 2022	2022	Stationing Committee/EDI Adviser	EDI Adviser working with Chair of SC and SMG EDI Adviser to report to the Council to update.
4.	God For All: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth				
4/3	The Conference agrees the programme plans as outlined in the report, and directs the Council to monitor progress against the “expected outcomes” annually, reporting back to the Conference on this in 2025. [DR 5/19/2]		2025	Mission Team	Via the Mission Committee to the Council

Notices of Motion					
NoM 2020/104	Report 22, Section K - EDI Data Collection, Monitoring and Analysis 1. The Conference directs that the directory returns for all ministers and probationers include ethnic monitoring, and that online stationing profiles include the monitoring of all aspects of diversity. 5. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to determine how the data to which resolutions 1-4 refer are to be most effectively recorded and analysed. [DR 4/17/7]	March 2023		EDI Adviser	Item 1 is being addressed through the systems review. EDI Adviser to report re 5 and how data is to be used

Work from the 2019 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
21.	Connexional Central Services Budget for three years commencing with 2019/2020				
21/4	The Conference directs that a policy be developed concerning the current practice of a Circuit being able to reclaim a minister's stipend from the Methodist Church Fund after six months' sick leave. [DR 8/42]	January 2021		Director of Finance and Resources	CAC needs to make interim agreement permanent – then can be written into SOs.
Memorials					
M1 & M2	Reimbursements for stipends of ministers on long term sick leave and Amendment of Standing Order 365 The Conference declines the memorial but directs the Council to ensure the policy for the payment of stipends and the provision of a manse for ministers on sick leave as set out in SO 365 and SO 801(4) is reviewed and a report made to the Conference no later than 2021. [DR 6/8/3]	January 2021	2021	Director of Finance and Resources	CAC needs to make interim agreement permanent – then can be written into SOs.
M4	Revision of guidelines in relation to Standing Order 955 The Conference therefore refers the memorial to the Methodist Council to consider the policy issues raised. [DR 8/11]	January 2022		Connexional Secretary	Refer to Stephen Hetherington
Notices of Motion					
NoM 2019/202	Reviewing Part 11 of Standing Orders the Conference directs the Methodist Council to set the terms of reference for, and facilitate the work of a thorough review of Part 11 of our Standing Orders. This review should include and address how processes of Safeguarding, Complaints and Discipline, and Connexional Team Grievances, can best relate to each other. The Conference seeks a set of processes that are able to be enacted in timescales that are fair for all concerned and that are appropriate to the capacity, resources and size of the Methodist Church of Great Britain as it is today. [DR 8/9/2]	March 2023	2023	COLCP	
Faith and Order Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
10.	God in Love Unites Us: The Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019				
10/5.	The Conference adopts the recommendation in paragraphs 3.2.6 and 5.4.2, and directs the Faith and Order Committee to explore producing liturgical resources and relevant guidance for use at the ending of a marriage. [DR 7/8/6]	n/a	n/a	Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee	The Committee has explored it and is working on liturgical resources.

Law and Polity Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
Memorials					
M28 & M29	<p>Streamlining Discipline Processes with regard to Safeguarding Panel Outcomes following Risk Assessments</p> <p>the Conference accepts that it may be possible to streamline the process and directs the Law and Polity Committee to consider the inclusion of a provision for immediate referral to the Connexional Complaints Panel in such circumstances. The Conference also directs Law and Polity Committee to review Standing Order 1120(4) and (5) and to consider making additional provision for a direct referral to the Connexional Complaints Panel where the complaint is about non-compliance with a direction under SO 232(2)(i). [DR 8/9/1]</p>			COLCP	With Part 11 review

Work from the 2018 Conference

Methodist Council		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
Memorials					
M10	<p>Membership of Church Councils by presbyters</p> <p>... Recognising that the draft code of conduct is currently in a period of consultation, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to be aware of the impact under 'leadership and collaboration' in the 'functioning' column: All ministers should (as set out in Standing Orders or as required in order to implement them):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend and contribute to the meetings of which they are members. <p>The Conference is concerned that presbyters should not be further tied up in meetings, and directs that amendments to Standing Orders are considered. This consideration should include exploration of whether further amendments to Standing Order 610(4) are required. The Conference therefore declines the memorial, but directs the Council to consider the issues raised. [DR 8/18]</p>			Ministries Committee	
Notices of Motion					
NoM 2018/204	<p>Notice of Motion 2018/204: Trans stakeholder group</p> <p>The Conference of 2016 directed the Methodist Council 'to ensure that work be progressed to identify the key issues for the Methodist Church to consider in order to ensure that people who are intersex or transgender are included in the life of the Church.'</p> <p>The Conference recognises the vital importance of the work and that it is done well and resourced appropriately. It further notes the ongoing work on a</p>			EDI Adviser	

	<p>relevant module of the EDI Toolkit in this area. Whilst there are possible implications for marriage and relationships, it is a distinctive piece of work that should be treated as such. It therefore directs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the EDI trans stakeholder group be expanded by the Methodist Council, not later than its October 2018 meeting, so that it has members who identify as transgender, as well as others with relevant knowledge and expertise of transgender identity and gender diversity; • That this group shall work with the EDI Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Complete the EDI Toolkit module; (ii) Bring a full report to the Conference, not later than 2021. • That the particular focus of this work shall be the consideration of pastoral good practice to ensure the welfare of trans, intersex and non-binary people, the pastoral and liturgical issues relating to transition, the use of appropriate language in CPD and other connexional documents, and theological reflection on the unique contribution trans and intersex people can and do make to the life of the Church. 				
NoM 2018/2 05	<p>Stationing Matching The Conference directs the Stationing Committee to consider: (b) how the broader stationing issues that the Methodist Church is currently facing might be tackled - in particular, the funding of ministerial appointments and the needs of the most deprived parts of the Connexion, and report to the Conference of 2019.] The Conference further directs the Methodist Council to work with the Stationing Committee in consideration of part (b) so as to ensure coherence with the work being undertaken on a Connexional Financial Strategy. [DR 8/9] [DR 8/9]</p>			Stationing Committee	The Council received a report on this in January 2022, noted the challenges, and referred it to the Stationing Committee for further consideration. Refer to Stationing review.

Work from the 2017 Conference

Law and Polity Committee		To the Council	To the Conference	Team / Officer	Notes / Consultations
	First Report of the Law and Polity Conference Sub-Committee				
LP/2.	The Conference directs the Law and Polity Committee in consultation with the Safeguarding Committee to examine whether the use of the word “contract” in Section 69 is appropriate having regard to its legal implications and to bring to the Conference of 2018 a report of its conclusions and any proposals for consequential amendments to Standing Orders. [DR 7/12/3]		2019	Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice	Safeguarding Committee Discussions continue (p. 150 of the 2019 Conference Agenda)