

Impact Measurement

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| Contact Name and Details | Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary CS@methodistchurch.org.uk |
| Status of Paper | Final |
| Action Required | Discussion |
| Resolution | 74/1. The Council receives the report. |

Summary of Content

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| Subject and Aims | To seek the Council's input about what it considers to be important in how impact is measured during the decision making process in response to NOM 2021/112. |
| Main Points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small group in the Connexional Team has been created to produce a response to NOM 2021/112 • The Council is asked for its input as to what it considers to be important in how impact is measured during the decision making process |
| Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Motion 2021/112 |

Summary of Impact

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| Wider Connexional | The framework needs to consider all aspects of impact on all levels of the Connexion |
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Impact Measurement

- 1 The Conference adopted Notice of Motion 2021/112 which amended resolution 62/2 of the report 'Looking to the Future'.
- 2 The amended resolution directs the Council to “establish a framework to analyse the cumulative impact of all resolutions brought to the Conference with regard to resources, time and potential benefits.”
- 3 The resolution also “appeals to the Council to recognise the reduced capacity at every level and therefore to apply the existing mandate the Council has to evaluate the number and cumulative time impact of resolutions presented to all future Conferences.”
- 4 The full text of the Notice of Motion is listed as an appendix to this report.
- 5 A small group within the Connexional Team has been formed to take forward this work. The Council is asked to comment on the things that it feels should be part of the framework, and a number of questions are shared below to aid the conversation.
- 6 The small group has come up with questions that may need to be asked to determine impact:
 - How many hours work will this increase on the time of those in circuit ministry?
 - Will this increase demands on Superintendents or others in circuit ministry?
 - What is the impact upon Districts (Chairs or any District Officers)?
 - Is this work likely to require a paid staff member to do it, or can it be done by volunteers?
 - Will the work increase demands on Connexional Team staff?
 - How do we factor in or make known the existing demands on Circuits/Districts/the Connexional Team at the point of decision making?

The Council is asked to consider:

- i. Are these questions the right ones?
 - ii. Which are the most important?
 - iii. What other questions are needed?
 - iv. Would a Red/Amber/Green category rating signify the level of impact be helpful?
 - v. Which group is best placed to implement the framework (who can best assess the cumulative impact with regard to resources, time and potential benefits)?
- 7 The Council is asked to discuss these questions in small groups and share feedback.
 - 8 The group will reflect on the comments received from the Council, and bring recommendations to the Council in April 2022.

***RESOLUTION

74/1. The Council receives the report.

Appendix - Notice of Motion 2021/112: Looking to the Future

'Mindful of the many valuable, exciting and necessary initiatives that the Conference has endorsed over recent years, the Conference nevertheless expresses concern that many of its people at every level of Church life are over-burdened.

The Changing Patterns of Ministry report documents that 'the experience of feeling overwhelmed by having too much to do was something frequently noted within conversations about ministerial workloads' (2.2.1) and this has significant effect on wellbeing (2.2.2). It is noted that the issues are systemic and institutional as well as personal. As an institution we must do our part in alleviating burden and not adding to it.

The decline in church members who have the time, energy, expertise or inclination (2.3.2) to administer many of the responsibilities for local societies further exacerbates our inability to action all the Conference resolutions that require a degree of local implementation.

At this Conference alone we are being asked to adopt resolutions that will considerably increase the workload of many who are already working beyond capacity.

This Notice of Motion in no way insinuates that any of the resolutions being presented are not worthy. Rather it recognises that we simply cannot implement all we would want to do at this time.

None of this is new but as the Secretary of the Conference states in his report, 'the last year has changed us...and periods of pandemic often serve to accelerate changes that were already in train' (5.1). The Conference can presume therefore that it is not going to get any easier to find the people, time and resources to implement resolutions they adopt. The Conference should be mindful of this when making decisions this week.

Therefore, in light of this increasingly limited capacity this notice of motion seeks to amend resolution 62/2 to:

The Conference commends the report and a record of its conversation about it to the Council for further deliberation and action. The Conference directs the Council to establish a framework to analyse the cumulative impact of all resolutions brought to the Conference with regard to resources, time and potential benefits. The Conference also appeals to the Council to recognise the reduced capacity at every level and therefore to apply the existing mandate the Council has to evaluate the number and cumulative time impact of resolutions presented to all future Conferences.