

Council Objectives 2020/2021

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Resolution	84/1. The Council receives the report.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of the love of Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

The Council objectives have been with us for the past couple of years, shaped in response to *Our Calling*. Some of that work has been completed, some is ongoing, some has changed shape as we seek, overall, to 'respond to the Gospel'.

Given all that our world, our country and our Church has been through in the last few months we are all aware that the year ahead is one of 'doing differently'. Our work as a Council will be no different. In MC/20/36 it was reported that 'over the summer the Connexional Secretary will review overall progress made towards the objectives and indicate the things that the Council could consider as 'completed' so as to concentrate on the outstanding issues. This will be brought to the Council in October 2020.' This work has been undertaken in collaboration with the Chair of the Council and the members of the Senior Management Group of the Connexional Team.

The objectives were designed to be a tool of the Council for the Council. They were to aid focusing the mind of the Council to ensure it was undertaking work that was a priority and was best thought to contribute to our reaffirmation of *Our Calling*. The majority of these objectives remain before us even if the detailed pieces of work have changed. Over the year it was clear that there was overlap between some of the former objectives so two have been brought together and others highlighted with work that has evolved.

As we got to the end of the last connexional year it became clear that the objectives have become another piece of reportage to the Council by the Team about work it had completed as required but was also being reported through the general report from the Team. This therefore meant double reporting to the Council, the Team having already reported to the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC). It was therefore felt that we needed to lessen this administrative burden whilst keeping before the Council those areas (amended where necessary) where priority needed to be given.

With the year ahead looking different to previous ones it was also thought critical that the Council has a clear view of the work it would need to do to respond to those things the Conference had asked of it as well seeing the 'normal' work clearly laid out in a timeline.

This document therefore offers to the Council the revised headline objectives which will shape our year, and a detailed timeline (at the time of writing) of each meeting of the Council and what should be considered there.

As is always the case the SRC has considered a much more detailed workplan showing where each item from the Conference this year, as well as work not completed from previous years (for agreed reasons) is currently and when it should be reported on.

It is hoped this document will therefore serve the Council well in this year of 'doing differently'. When the Council gathers, various items of work will be shared which will enable the Council to see the breadth and scale of what the objectives cover.

Objectives 2020/21

1. Proclaiming the Gospel through worship/ The ministry of the whole people of God in the life of the World
2. A Church for all people/ The Inclusive Church
3. God's Church in God's world/ Striving for Justice and Peace ¹
4. Evangelism / God For All
5. Resources for the Church: the use of God's gifts (including Oversight and Leadership)
6. Responding to the Gospel in partnership ²

Detailed timeline for the year:

October 2020

Work from the Conference:

The Budget

Resolution 53/5 (2020)

The Conference directs the Council to review all activities currently planned for 2020/2021 to ensure that only necessary work goes ahead and to reduce expenditure to a minimum where possible.

Resolution 53/6 (2020) (see also resolution 23/1)

The Conference directs the Council to approve a revised budget for 2020/2021 as soon as is practicable.

Climate Change and Fossil Fuels

Resolution 27/2 (2020)

Taking account of the findings of the Transition Pathway Initiative, a project supported by the Central Finance Board, the Conference refers to the Methodist Council a request that the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) recommend that the Central Finance Board fully implements Notice of Motion 2017/209 and disinvests before the 2021 Conference from all oil and gas companies which are not currently aligned with the Paris Agreement target of a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees.

Memorial M6 (2020) – Global Climate Emergency – referred to the Council.

Oversight and Trusteeship

Project plan to be brought to the Council. (Specific resolutions to be addressed in January and March 2021.)

M4 (2019) Revision of guidelines in relation to SO 955

SO 955(6)

Resolution 22/5 (2015)

The Conference directs the Council to undertake further work on the proposal to apply the levy in SO 955(6) to local church capital model trust funds and to report their recommendations to the 2016 Conference.

Replacement projects

Resolution 28/3A (2015)

The Conference directs the Council to bring draft detailed guidance on the classification of a project as a replacement project to the Conference in 2016.

¹ Previously Social Holiness

² Previously One Mission

Other items:

Nomination of the Assistant Secretary of the Conference
Model Trust 20 and the connexional property strategy
Pensions
Methodist Church House
District Reviews
EDI (The Inclusive Church Agenda)
Faith and Order Committee report
Methodist Schools Committee – terms of reference
Methodist International Centre

Standing items:

Matters arising
Decisions made
Update on work from the Conference
Connexional Team update
Council objectives
Committee appointments
Connexional Grants Committee annual report
Risk register
Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee and associated reports

January 2021**Work from the Conference:****Oversight and Trusteeship**

Resolution 25/7 (2020)

The Conference directs the Council to appoint a task group to receive reports from regional groups and to report to the 2021 Conference with proposals for change from 2022 onwards.

Methodist Forces Board

Resolution 10/2 (2020)

The Conference directs the Methodist Forces Board and Aldershot Methodist Military Trust to bring a proposal for a unified body for Methodist engagement with the armed forces to the 2021 Conference.

Model Trust 14(2A)

Resolution 20/7 (2019)

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to work with the Property Development Committee on the production of a policy in relation to Model Trust 14(2A) in its amended form and to consider such a policy no later than January 2021.

Israel and Palestine

The following Memorials were referred to the Methodist Council:

M7, M8, M9 Israel and Palestine

Budget

Resolution 21/4 (2019)

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.

Memorials M1, M2 (2019)

The Conference... 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.

Twenty First Century Fund

Resolution 3/3A (2019)

The Conference authorises the Methodist Council to negotiate and agree the amount or value and terms of a loan or loans to the Methodist Church in Great Britain by the Central Finance Board.

Community land trusts

Memorial M23 (2018)

The Conference therefore accepts the memorial, directing the Property Development Committee to report on this work as part of its own reporting to the Methodist Council as soon as possible.

Sale of model trust property for social housing

Memorial M16 (2015)

The Conference accepts the direction to review the types of social housing providers to whom Methodist premises can be sold at an undervalue.

Other items:

Revised Connexional Property Strategy

Standing items:

Matters arising

Decisions made

Connexional Team update

Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee

Accounts for 2019/2020 and report from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Appointments update

Joseph Rank Trust – summary of grants

Preliminary consideration of the budget for 2021/22

Connexional Allowances Committee

Connexional Manse Trustees

Sharing agreements – list

March 2021

Work from the Conference:

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Resolution 2/2a (2020)

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to monitor the extent and effectiveness of the implementation of its three directions in paragraph 5 of section B of its report and to report to the Conference of 2021.

Resolution 22/9a (2020)

The Conference notes that the work referred to in Notice of Motion 2018/204 will be reported to the Conference of 2021 and directs that it be incorporated into the Inclusive Methodist Church strategy.

Notice of Motion 2020/103

The Conference therefore directs:

- 1) that the Methodist Council bring the full report from the EDI Committee and the EDI Task Group to the 2021 Conference setting out the coherent implementation plan with timescales, resources and responsibilities to achieve this;

- 2) that the EDI Committee and EDI Task Group working together ensure that the full report contains proposals for a small independent EDI Scrutiny Committee to be established to provide scrutiny and assurance on the implementation of the EDI plan going forward. This committee should have the authority to consult experts, within and outside the Church, in the different areas of equalities if needed;
- 3) that the independent body responsible for EDI scrutiny shall report annually to the Council with a summary report to the Conference until it is confident that the EDI themes are being delivered in such a way as to ensure ongoing development of the Inclusive Church.

Deliverance ministry

Resolution 63/2 (2020)

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to oversee the process of producing guidelines for the authorisation, training and supervision of those seeking to engage in deliverance ministry and report to the 2021 Conference.

God for all

Resolution 4/3 (2020)

The Conference agrees the programme plans as outlined in the report, and directs the Council to monitor progress against the 'expected outcomes' annually.....

Review of the role of Youth President – interim report

Notice of Motion 2019/201

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to appoint a task group to review the role of Methodist Youth President and to present recommendations on how to develop the role for the next decade.

Oversight and Trusteeship

Resolution 25/1 (2020)

The Conference welcomes and affirms the ethos and direction of the Report's section on local church trusteeship, and supports the suggestion that raising the minimum size for a Local Church will assist Circuits to coordinate their mission. The Conference, therefore, directs the Methodist Council, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to ensure that a review of Standing Order 605 (1) and (2) takes place and that a proposal is brought to the 2021 Conference to raise the minimum size for a Local Church, together with examples of creative ways in which one Church on multiple sites and/or federations of classes under a united Church Council can enable local missional communities to flourish. In the light of this, and to maximise the potential fruitfulness of all Circuits' use of their resources, the Conference further directs all Circuit Meetings to review the number of Church Councils in the Circuit and encourages Church Councils to work together to determine the best way of working to achieve the minimum number of trustee bodies necessary to fulfil its calling.

Resolution 25/3 (2020)

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a review of the size of the Conference as required under SO 100(2) and to report with recommendations for any changes to the 2021 Conference.

Resolution 25/4 (2020)

The Conference directs the Strategy and Resources Committee in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee to review the constitution, function and inter-relationship of all connexional committees, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.

Resolution 25/5 (2020)

The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to bring proposals for a discernment process for senior posts, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.

Changing Patterns of Ministry

Resolution 34/12 (2020)

The Conference directs the Stationing and Ministries Committee to review the candidating, training and stationing processes in order to:

- (a) explore how it can be ensured that there is a clear process for enabling some presbyters to serve in local, pioneer and specific cultural/language appointments;
 - (b) explore how this possibility could be clearly communicated to those involved in the candidating, training and stationing matching processes; and
 - (c) prepare provisional guidance for those considering such appointments;
- and report to the 2021 Conference.

3Generate

Resolution 12/4 (2020)

The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in conversation with the Queen's Foundation, to explore how mental health awareness is included in presbyteral and diaconal training and to report to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.

Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Homes (LWP Homes) and the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust (LWPT)

Memorial M1 (2020)

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to have conversations with LWP Homes and LWPT and to report to the Council through the Ministries Committee on the current position.

Part 11 of Standing Orders

Notice of Motion 2019/202

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.

Schools' Education Strategy

Resolution 21/21 (2018)

The Conference directs the Methodist Schools Committee to develop a schools' educational strategy for the Church, reporting to the Conference in 2020 [deferred to 2021].

Other items:

Methodist Modern Art Collection Management Committee – policies

Schools' Education Strategy

Resolution 21/21 (2018)

The Conference directs the Methodist Schools Committee to develop a schools' educational strategy for the Church, reporting to the Conference in 2020 [deferred to 2021].

Standing items:

Matters arising

Decisions made

Connexional Team update

Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee

Budget for 2021/2022

Appointments and nominations for the Conference

Ministries Committee

Methodist Schools Committee

Methodist Heritage Committee

Attesting the Journal of the Conference (for 2019 and 2020)