

Update on work from the Conference

Contact Name and Details	Doug Swanney, Connexional Secretary swanneyd@methodistchurch.org.uk
Resolutions	85/1. The Council receives the report.

The Council is asked to note the following updates on work from the 2020 Conference and previous Conferences.

1. Notice of Motion 2020/113: Report 24 – Ecumenical Report

The Conference celebrates the valuable work of Churches Together in England (CTE) and rejoices in its emphasis on mission and flexible approach to new partnerships. (Para 6.1).

The Conference notes that members of CTE work together across deep disagreement on core doctrinal issues, such as around the nature of the Church, the Sacraments and Orders of Ministry, and gives thanks for the grace shown in this way of working.

The Conference further notes that since 2014, being in same-sex marriage is not a bar to any office within the Methodist Church.

The Conference, therefore, expresses its dismay that the CTE Enabling Group asked the Fourth Group to refrain from the duly elected president - Hannah Brock Womack - taking her seat, prompted by her same-sex marriage.

Furthermore, the Conference laments the pain that the Enabling Group's decision inflicts on Ms. Brock Womack, the Religious Society of Friends and LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies.

The Conference adopted the Motion and the following two resolutions:

The Conference adopted as Resolution 24/2:

The Conference encourages CTE to allow Hannah Brock Womack to take up the position for which she was duly nominated, rejoicing that we journey together as ecumenical partners despite our various differences.

The Conference adopted as Resolution 24/3:

The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to communicate the text of this Notice of Motion to the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of CTE and the six Presidents, including Hannah Brock Womack.

The text of the Notice of Motion has been communicated to the General Secretary of CTE and the six Presidents as directed.

2. Notice of Motion 2020/110, Resolution 32/3

The Conference encourages Local Churches to reflect on their response to deprivation in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. To assist Local Churches in this, it directs the Faith and Order Committee, as a matter of urgency, to produce guidance on acts of Holy Communion in our current context, including reflection on ways in which appropriate online participation in services of Holy Communion might be encouraged.

This work has been done and the guidance can be found at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/reflecting-on-faith/faith-and-order/holy-communion-responding-pastorally-in-the-light-of-covid-19/>

3. Resolutions 33/2 and 33/3 (2018)

The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to undertake further work on the issues identified in paragraph 6 of Part A of this report and bring its response to the 2019 Conference.

Notice of Motion 2018/101

First, the Conference seeks clarification as to the current status of conversations with the Church of England around the interchangeability of deacons.

Secondly, the Conference directs that the interchangeability of deacons is given as high a regard as presbyters in future conversations with the Church of England to reflect the fact that the Methodist Church in Britain has two equal orders of ordained ministry.

Finally, the Conference adopts an additional Resolution 33/3.

The Conference further directs the Faith and Order Committee to include progress on work relating to the interchangeability of deacons in any further reports.

In the light of the decisions of the Methodist Council during 2019/2020, it is not possible for the specific work directed in these resolutions to proceed at this time. Instead, the work is superseded by resolutions 29/3 and 29/4 of the 2020 Conference. These require the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group to bring proposals for the continuing support of the Covenant to the 2021 Conference and require the Faith and Order Committee to work with the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England to overcome the remaining obstacles to the organic unity of our two churches.

4. Memorials M7, M8, M9 (2020)

Memorials M7, M8 and M9 have been referred to the Council. These memorials request the Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment (JACEI) “to urgently consider again disinvesting in all companies that profit from activities in illegally occupied areas”. It is proposed that a paper is brought to the January Council, after consultation with JACEI, in order to afford the Council a fuller understanding of the recent developments in the region, the current ethical policy, its application and the implications of a request to review.

5. Resolution 12/5 (2020)

The Conference adopted the following resolution attached to the 3Generate report:

The Conference commends the Mental Health First Aid work being done by the Connexional Team and asks for a report to the 2022 Conference via the Methodist Council.

The Connexional Team reports to the Council that, within the Children Youth and Families team, there are two trained team members who are able to provide Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training. They have run regular training sessions, for volunteers and paid workers with children and young people, for the last two connexional years. Trained volunteers are involved in 3Generate, and are supervisors and line managers of the OPPs programme. All staff teams involved in 3Generate facilitation have been trained in Children and Youth Mental Health First Aid. The two trained staff are currently arranging with MHFA to be able to run these courses online while the current restrictions remain. The Team has advertised Action For Children’s Supporting Parental Mental Health sessions and their wellbeing sessions for churches.

The work on the connexion-wide network of trained trainers for the adult MHFA training is continuing, however COVID-19 has impacted on the progress. With the necessary change in

timescale the plan is to have a team of twelve trained trainers for MHFA (adult) across the Connexion by the summer next year. We will then be in a position to offer a number of events around the Connexion for the adult version of the training from the autumn onwards.

*****RESOLUTION**

85/1. The Council receives the report.