

## The Size of the Conference

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference SoC@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Subject and aims</b>	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.
<b>Background context and relevant documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reaffirming Our Calling report to the 2020 Conference</li> <li>- Review of the membership of the Conference to the 2013 Conference.</li> </ul>
<b>Resolutions</b>	<p>102/1. The Council receives the report.</p> <p>102/2. The Council appoints a working party as set out in paragraph 6.</p>

1. The 2020 Conference received the report *Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship* and its response to questions that have been asked for a number of years. The paper looks to seek a way in which the structures of the Church can be adapted to focus on the two aims of ensuring that we are complying and demonstrate better compliance with our obligations as a charity as well as ensuring appropriate representation and a better model of conferring to enable the church to fulfil its calling.
2. SO 100(2) requires that ‘the Conference shall from time to time, and not less than once in every five years’ review the size of the membership of the Conference. The last review took place in 2013, and a review is therefore overdue. In 2013, when the Conference received the report on a Review of the Membership of the Conference, it concurred with the Working Party that it was too soon after the last, extensive, review to make a further reduction in, or addition to, the size of the membership of the Conference.
3. The 2013 Conference adopted resolution 49/2 of the report that noted that, “in no later than 2017 Conference should appoint a further working party to review the membership of the Conference in accordance with SO 100(2) and report to the Conference no later than 2018.”
4. The conversations leading to *Reaffirming Our Calling* have recognised that structures designed for mission in a previous generation do not offer the agility that needed to serve the present age. In light of this, the Conference adopted resolution 25/3:

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.

5. Over the next year a working party shall undertake this work. This allows time to consider the outlines presented in the Oversight and Trusteeship report and to consider the detailed questions of how to remain faithful to our calling in this changed world, with changed structures that will enable a more efficient way of working.

6. The Methodist Council is asked to appoint a working party to undertake this work which will report to the Council in March and the Conference in June 2021. The working party shall consist of:
- (i) a former President or Vice-President;
  - (ii) the Secretary of the Conference or his designee;
  - (iii) a member of the Business Committee;
  - (iv) a member of the Conference Secretariat;
  - (v) a Synod Secretary.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**102/1. The Council receives the report.**

**102/2. The Council appoints a working party as set out in paragraph 6.**

*Names to be tabled.*