

## Deliverance Ministry

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<b>Subject and aims</b>	To appoint a task group to undertake work in relation to deliverance ministry and exorcism and report to the 2021 Conference.
<b>Resolution</b>	106/1. The Council receives the report.

1. The Faith and Order Committee in its report to the 2020 Conference shared that it has continued to explore various aspects of deliverance ministry, of which exorcism forms a part and which, although relatively few members of the Methodist Church participate in deliverance ministry, continues to be part of the Church's ministry of healing. The Faith and Order Committee is working towards producing some new guidance, to be reported to the 2021 Conference.
2. In the report the Faith and Order Committee noted the increasing complexity of concerns regarding exorcism in relation to safe practice and working with vulnerable people. With this in mind, the Committee is aware there is a need for further consultation with safeguarding, medical, and social care bodies.
3. Alongside these new guidelines, there will also be a need for appropriate systems of support for training, supervision and resources to ensure that those engaged in deliverance ministry are sufficiently equipped for this kind of ministry and that there is a robust system of accountability in place.
4. The Faith and Order Committee recommended to the Conference that the Methodist Council explore how these can be put in place and consider what resources are required to support this ministry. The Conference adopted as Resolution 63/2:  
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.
5. The Faith and Order Committee has already undertaken substantial work towards producing guidance, much of which will be relevant for the Council's work. It is also important that the guidance for deliverance ministry and the guidelines for the authorisation, training and supervision of those involved in this work fit together. The theological issues involved are complex and there are different perspectives on how we understand the various aspects of deliverance ministry. The priority, however, is to ensure that this ministry can resume within the Methodist Church as soon as possible. It is therefore proposed that the Methodist Council and the Faith and Order Committee appoint a joint working group to bring provisional guidance and guidelines to the 2021 Conference, with final guidance and theological reflection to be brought by the Faith and Order Committee to the 2022 Conference.
6. Therefore, the Methodist Council is asked to appoint a joint task group to work with the Faith and Order Committee on the guidelines for authorisation, training and supervision in relation to deliverance ministry and the guidelines for exorcism. It is vital to have people involved who are aware of all the issues surrounding this area of work, and have experience of, or a good understanding of, this ministry.

7. Terms of Reference and the names proposed for the joint task group will be tabled at the October Council.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**106/1. The Council receives the report.**