

## The Memorials Committee

<b>Contact Names and Details</b>	The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Conference soc@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Resolutions</b>	41/1. The Council receives the report.  41/2. The Council recommends to the Conference that the Memorials Committee is reviewed along the lines set out in the report.

1. The Memorials Committee is established by Standing Order (SO 138 is shown in Appendix 1) to consider the memorials submitted by Circuits and Districts in a particular year and to propose the replies which are to be put before the Conference.
2. The Memorials Committee comprises a number of representatives from the Districts (on a rota basis). Each of the district representatives is intended to serve for three years to ensure some continuity – although this is often not possible for a variety of reasons.
3. The difficulty with this is that the Committee is unconnected to the full range of strategic thinking in the Church. There is often no overlap with the membership of the Council or the Strategy and Resources Committee. The deadlines for the submission of memorials and the drafting of replies to resource the Committee mitigate against a considered overview of the range of questions being raised in any case. For the Committee to be one which is not well linked into other processes of the Church and with limited continuity of membership seems to be unhelpful. During the course of the year the SRC has given some thought to this matter and could see the value in reviewing the composition of the Committee so as to achieve greater coherence with other oversight bodies in the life of the Methodist Church
4. The Council is therefore asked to consider whether it would wish to recommend to the Conference that the membership of the Committee is changed to include those who are more strongly linked with other parts of the Church's connexional life.
5. For example, the Committee could consist of:
  - Three members of the Council
  - Three members of the Conference-elected group of Conference representatives
  - Three District Chairs
  - Two members of the Strategy and Resources Committee.
6. This could mean that a greater overview of the range of subjects brought as memorials could be achieved.
7. The Council is asked to consider whether it would wish to recommend that the Committee is reviewed along these lines or whether it would wish to suggest alternatives.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**41/1. The Council receives the report.**

**41/2. The Council recommends to the Conference that the Memorials Committee is reviewed along the lines set out in the report.**

## Appendix 1

**138 Memorials Committee.** (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a committee to consider all memorials from Synods and Circuit Meetings and make a recommendation on each to the Conference.

(2) In addition to the convener appointed by the preceding Conference the committee shall consist of:

- (i) a former President or Vice-President appointed for three years, who shall be chair;
- (ii) the President-designate, Vice-President-designate and Secretary of the Conference;
- (iii) the Connexional Secretaries or their representatives;
- (iv) one district Chair, and one synod secretary, each appointed for a period of three years;
- (v) three ministers and ten other persons, each nominated by a district Policy Committee according to a rota.

(3) Each member nominated by a district Policy Committee shall serve for a period of three years and shall in the first year of appointment be an elected representative of the District to the ensuing Conference. If any such member should cease to be a church member or minister in the District or should otherwise be unable to complete the full term of membership, the district Policy Committee shall nominate a substitute for the remainder of the term.

(4) The convener may invite other persons to attend the meeting of the committee in order to give information or otherwise assist the committee. Persons invited under this clause have no vote.

(5) The committee may, instead of proposing replies to particular memorials which it considers to be of special importance, recommend to the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Conference that arrangements be made for a resolution or resolutions based on one or more of them to be moved and debated in the Conference.

(5A) The committee shall recommend to the Business Committee which replies to memorials shall be proposed to be moved and voted upon en bloc under Standing Order 134A.

(6) The report of the committee shall clearly identify

- (i) those memorials which require to be considered by the Presbyteral as well as the Representative Session of the Conference, being shared business as defined by clause 24(c) of the Deed of Union; and
- (ii) those memorials which concern any of the matters specified in items (i) or (ii) of clause 25B(a) of the Deed, upon which the process prescribed by that clause will apply to the proposed reply.

(7) The committee shall meet in London shortly before the meeting of the Conference and its report shall, if possible, be printed for circulation in the Conference. If, however, in any particular year it should seem advisable to the convener of the committee and the Secretary of the Conference the committee may meet in the Conference town on the first day of the Conference.

(8) In respect of memorials remitted by the Conference for consideration and report by the Methodist Council or other committees the reports shall be included in the Agenda of the next following Conference unless the Conference specifies some other year.