

## 2. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

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### 1. Membership of the Conference Business Committee

The Conference Business Committee for 2014 comprises the Revds Ashley Cooper and Sylvester Deigh, Deacon Eunice Attwood, Mr Rodney Betts, Mr Stephen Cooper, Mr Peter Mills, and Mrs Ruth Pickles (Chair). As all members have been elected as Conference representatives, there is no anticipated requirement for any substitutes under Standing Order 136(1C).

### 2. Meetings and reports

- The Business Committee will meet on Saturday 28 June at the close of business, following the Scrutineers' briefing.
- The Scrutineers are asked to meet for a briefing on Saturday 28 June immediately at the close of business.
- The Business Committee will report each day in the Order Paper. It will indicate any variations to the outline schedule printed in the Agenda.

### 3. Length of speeches

It is recommended that presenters of business have four minutes and speakers three minutes. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the President and Vice-President, these allocations may be changed.

### 4. Use of time

4.1 Members of the Conference will want to ensure that their time is spent wisely and effectively. To this end, the Business Committee will endeavour to ensure that as far as possible business follows the schedule published in the Agenda. As well as those who visit the Conference for particular debates, increasing numbers of people watch its proceedings on the Internet, especially items on specific matters of interest, and rely on the published schedule being observed. Therefore, without wishing to deny opportunity to speak or to curtail debate unhelpfully, the Business Committee strongly urges members of the Conference to maintain the discipline of keeping to its schedule. It is unfair to have to foreshorten business scheduled for later in the week because earlier items have overrun.

4.2 With this in mind, the Business Committee asks that:

- speeches are not made unnecessarily when it is evident that the outcome is clear;
- representatives refrain from making speeches or comments that have already been made and from repeating what has been said and heard;
- representatives bear in mind that the proceedings of the Conference are web streamed and heard by many who are not present in the Conference hall;
- the Conference focuses on reaching decisions with the minimum necessary debate that does the subject justice.

## 5. Notices of Motion

Standing Order 132 reads as follows:

**132 Notices of Motion.** (1) Subject to Standing Order 131(4) any two members may upon notice of motion complying with this Standing Order bring before the Conference any lawful resolution within the competence of the Conference.

(1A) Every notice of motion shall be handed to the Secretary in written form and signed by the following persons:

- (i) where the proposal is to amend a resolution and those responsible for presenting that business to the Conference are prepared to accept it, the proposer and seconder of the motion;
- (ii) where such a proposal to amend is not accepted by those responsible, the proposer and seconder and four other persons;
- (iii) in all other cases, the proposer and seconder and eight other persons.

(2) Only on matters of urgency, so judged by the President after consultation with the Vice-President, shall notices of motion in the Representative Session be accepted after 4.30 pm on the third day of the session, except that a notice of motion proposing to amend a resolution circulated or materially altered on or after the first day of the session shall be accepted if lodged before the close of business on the day before the resolution is to be dealt with.

- 5.1 Notices of Motion should be handed to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference or the Record Office.
- 5.2 In order that Notices of Motion which are unrelated to existing Agenda business can be dealt with effectively and efficiently by the Conference, proposers are requested to ensure that they include sufficient but succinct background information to ensure that all Conference members may understand what is being proposed and why. This will enable members to reflect on the merit of these Notices of Motion beforehand and speakers to focus on key issues.
- 5.3 The Business Committee recommends that the deadline for the submission of Notices of Motion that amend a resolution or otherwise relate to a report printed in the Agenda be 12:30 pm on Tuesday 1 July, except in cases of urgency so judged by the President.
- 5.4 In enabling Conference members to submit Notices of Motion related to business scheduled for the afternoon and evening of Saturday 28 June, the Business Committee requests that these be submitted either (1) by post to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference at Methodist Church House to arrive not later than Thursday 26 June or (2) by email to [asc@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:asc@methodistchurch.org.uk) to arrive not later than Friday 27 June at 2.00 pm. The Committee has determined that it will only require the names (which will be printed on the Order Paper) of a proposer and a seconder to be supplied at this stage: the four further signatories, should the Notice of Motion be resisted by the proposer of the resolution (as per SO 132(1A)(ii)), may therefore be acquired after arrival at the Conference on Saturday 28 June but must be handed to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference by 1.00 pm on that day.
- 5.5 Further, for the Business Committee to prepare the business to be conducted on Monday 30 June, members of the Conference who wish to submit Notices of Motion relating to the business to be taken on Monday, or amended replies to any Memorials to be taken with it, are requested to hand them to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference by 12.30 pm on Sunday 29 June.
- 5.6 Similarly, Notices of Motion relating to items of business to be taken on Tuesday 9 July should be submitted by 12.30 pm on Monday. This, and the deadlines in the previous paragraphs, will

enable the Business Committee to prepare full and informed Order Papers for the smooth transaction of business.

- 5.7 The Business Committee recommends that the deadline for handing in Notices of Motion introducing material not referred to in the Agenda be 4.30 pm on Monday 30 June. The first resolution at the end of this report enables the Conference to endorse this.
- 5.8 Having set out in the preceding paragraphs the proposed timings for Notices of Motion in general, the Business Committee wishes to make provision for dealing with any which impact the connexional budget and proposes a specific timetable to that end. Its purpose is to ensure that the Conference is able to take decisions about the budget when all the relevant information is to hand and to avoid the pitfall of making choices or judgements based on partial information. It is therefore recommended that:
- The budget will be formally presented and explained on Saturday afternoon, with responses only to questions of fact and for clarification.
  - Any Notices of Motion proposing amendments to the budget shall be submitted by 4.30 pm on Monday through the usual channels.
  - The Conference Financial Committee will consider the implications of the amendments at the close of Monday's session and present a report in Tuesday's Order Paper.
  - The Conference will then consider the budget, including any proposed amendments, on Tuesday morning.
  - The budget will still be formally confirmed and adopted on Thursday morning after all resolutions have been processed and decisions taken.
- 5.9 The 2013 Conference agreed that it should be mandatory for proposers of Notices of Motion to complete a 'Submission of a Notice of Motion' form, including information about budgetary implications. The Business Committee has therefore approved such a form, and it is available for download from the website or from the Assistant Secretary.
- 5.10 With regard to the number of signatories required for a Notice of Motion that proposes to amend a resolution or otherwise relates to business in the Agenda, lists of those responsible for presenting each item of business are available from the Assistant Secretary of the Conference or the Chair of the Business Committee. Those proposing a Notice of Motion should consult with those presenting the business to ascertain whether the Notice of Motion will be accepted or resisted, and should seek the appropriate number of signatories in the light of the outcome of those consultations.
- 5.11 The 2011 Conference approved the principle of enabling those Notices of Motion that do not relate to business already in the Agenda to be prioritised, by means of a ballot, should time not permit all such Notices of Motion to be considered. Should such a ballot be required, it will be held on Tuesday 1 July. Any such Notices of Motion which are not considered during the Conference will be dealt with as in the next paragraph.
- 5.12 The Business Committee may recommend that a particular Notice of Motion is not considered by the Conference but is referred to the Methodist Council in the coming year. The Council is required to report back to the following Conference its judgement on that Notice of Motion.
- 5.13 In order for the Business Committee to test, on the floor of the Conference, its own judgements about which Notices of Motion to refer to the Council without debate, on Wednesday 2 July the Chair of the Business Committee will move that the Conference adopts that section of the Committee's report (which will be printed on the day's Order Paper) which lists those Notices of Motion recommended to be referred to the Council. The Conference will be able to amend the list without the need of a written Notice of Motion.

## 6. Memorials

It is anticipated that all memorials will be dealt with during the Conference, ie taken with existing business to which they relate, debated separately or the replies adopted en bloc, based on the recommendations of the Memorials Committee. However, the Conference is reminded that the same principle and procedure, as for Notices of Motion, for selecting those for debate was agreed in 2011 and can be applied if necessary.

## 7. Nominations

All nominees for President-Designate, Vice-President-Designate and Conference-elected representatives are to be photographed and their details displayed on a screen. The arrangements for this will be notified on Saturday's Order Paper at the Conference.

Nominations for designation of **President and Vice-President of the Conference** of 2015 must be placed in ballot boxes by **5.30 pm on Monday 30 June**. They will be displayed on Tuesday; voting will close at 6 pm on Tuesday; the results will be announced on Wednesday morning.

Nominations for **Conference-elected representatives**: you are asked to note the requirements of Standing Order 103 and to follow **strictly** the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly for display. Nomination forms must be placed in the ballot boxes by **2.00 pm on Tuesday 1 July**; voting will close at 5.00 pm on Wednesday; the results will be announced on Thursday morning.

This year, of the three Conference-elected representatives to serve from 2015 to 2017, two will be presbyters and one will be lay, thus fulfilling SO 103(2A).

Nominations for **Conference Business Committee members**: you are asked to note the requirements of Standing Order 136 and to follow strictly the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly for display. The election timetable will be the same as for Conference-elected representatives, as above. It should be noted that election to the Business Committee does not carry a right to membership of succeeding Conferences.

This year, two Business Committee members – one ministerial (presbyter or deacon) and one lay – are required to be elected and may serve for the three years 2015 to 2017. One lay member is required to be elected for the 2015 Conference only.

## 8. Provisional legislation

Under Standing Order 122, any two members, by Notice of Motion, may propose that an item agreed by the Conference be referred to the Synods as a **provisional resolution** before being proposed for final adoption by the Conference next year.

## 9. Letter-writing

Any member of the Conference requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference should note the following criteria and procedure:

- a. The Conference writes automatically to those who have served in ordained ministry for 70 or more years, and those celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> or 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of their ordinations; their names to be prepared in advance.
- b. The Conference will write, for a specific reason, to those who have a direct link with the Conference, or represent the World Church, or have an ecumenical relationship with the Methodist Church, or have a claim to achievements that are outstanding in the life of the Church or on its behalf.
- c. The letter-writer, with consultation as necessary, will be the appropriate person to give guidance to Conference members as to whether a proposed letter is within the criteria.

- d. Requests for letters to be sent must be submitted on a standard form, giving all the required details, to the letter-writer who shall advise of acceptance or otherwise. The letter-writer will have a seat at an outside end of the front row in the Conference hall and standard forms are available there.
- e. The recipients of letters will be listed in the Daily Record for the information of the Conference.

## 10. En bloc items

The Business Committee proposes that the items of business listed below be voted en bloc. Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the en bloc list those items will automatically be removed from the list. In addition, by giving notice to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that an item be removed from the list and debated.

The list of proposed *en bloc* business is as follows:

Methodist Independent Schools Trust  
 Methodist Academies and Schools Trust  
 MRDF (All We Can)  
 Guernsey  
 Jersey  
 Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster  
 New Room Bristol  
 MDO General Report  
 TMCP  
 Westminster College Oxford Trust  
 Methodist Homes  
 MMHS  
 Stationing Committee  
 Central Finance Board  
 Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland  
 Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion  
 Sharing agreements and ecumenical partnerships  
 Ministerial Exchanges  
 Fernley Hartley Trust

## 11. Proposals for future Conferences

### 11.1 Notices of Motion

The Business Committee wishes to test the mind of the Conference as to whether the deadline for notices of motion which bring new business before the Conference could be brought forward. The Business Committee is aware that members of the Conference are in touch with each other in advance of the Conference (eg through social media), and that the text of notices of motion has often been prepared in advance of the Conference. The Business Committee proposes that the deadline for notices of motion which present *new* business could be the close of business on the first day of the Representative Session, with effect from the 2015 Conference. This would enable the Business Committee to schedule the business during the week more effectively and more accurately from an earlier stage, and would enable the Conference to give proper consideration to these new items of business (see Resolution 2/2 below).

### 11.2 Format of the Conference Agenda

Members of the Conference will be aware that the *Agenda* has been available as an Ebook for the last two Conferences. Provision of the *Agenda* as an ebook rather than in printed copy could enable significant cost savings and, this year, representatives have been asked through the registration process whether they would be willing to receive it as an ebook only. The

Business Committee proposes to consider the responses to this question alongside any comments in the evaluation following the Conference, before making a decision as to the format of the 2015 *Conference Agenda*.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

#### **2/1. The Conference adopted the Report of the Business Committee, with the exception of paragraph 11.1.**

### **Second Report from the Conference Business Committee (Daily Record 3/15)**

The Business Committee brought this update to its Report printed in volume 1 of the Agenda (section 2, page 22).

#### **1. Nominations for Membership of the Business Committee**

This year the Conference is required to elect two members of the Business Committee - one ministerial and one lay (not three as set out in para 7 of the First Report of the Conference Business Committee). Both persons would be required to be elected for a period of three years (the Conferences of 2015, 2016 and 2017). Nomination forms for those posts are available from the Helpdesk and should be placed in the ballot boxes by 2pm on Tuesday 1 July with voting taking place on Wednesday 2 July.

2. This year the schedule of Business has been available on the Conference Website and regularly updated. It now shows the current situation. Any Conference member wishing to have a hard copy can obtain one from the Help Desk.
3. The Conference is advised that in the event of a counted vote during the business sessions on Saturday this will be made by five scrutineers who are presbyters and the CBC Chair. Normal scrutineering arrangements will begin on Monday morning. All scrutineers are reminded to meet in the Devon Room immediately at close of Saturday business (18.45).
4. Nominees for President and Vice-President of the Conference for 2015 and as Conference-elected Representatives 2015-2017 are kindly asked to have their photographs taken, for use in the visual projections during breaks. Would they please see John Howard-Norman in the Conference Arrangements Team office in the Dorset Room (see Handbook page 31) as soon as possible and no later than the respective closing times for nominations given in the Agenda page 26. In the event that any nominees are not present at the Conference, it would be most helpful if those making the nominations could arrange for nominees' photos to be sent electronically to [asc@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:asc@methodistchurch.org.uk)
5. There are two ballot boxes on each side of the hall. These can all be used at any time on Saturday until 19.30 hrs and from Monday morning onwards for all nomination papers and for all completed ballot papers, strictly observing the deadlines given on Agenda page 26. Please do not place your envelope with your completed Trustee Declaration Form and Register of Interest Form in these boxes: it should be deposited in the box by the Help Desk in the foyer.
6. **Changes in Marriage Legislation**  
On Wednesday morning (11:15) the Conference will be considering the report of the working party on Marriage and Civil Partnerships (agenda item 40) and the associated resolutions. Prior to considering the specific points addressed in the report the Conference will on Monday morning (11:35 – 12:25) have the opportunity to consider some of the wider implications of the changes in marriage legislation for the pastoral ministry and mission of the Church. It is hoped that:

- the Conference will be able to confer without the demand of dealing with resolutions;
- members of the Conference will feel able to offer one another insights that will assist the Conference in its exploration;
- the Conference will therefore be enabled to explore how, in this new legal situation, a Church whose members may hold very differing theological convictions can best continue to sustain its shared life and mission.

Two members of the Conference will offer some opening reflections, one of which will contain some specific references to the conversation on this topic which took place during the Presbyteral Session. Members of the Conference will then be invited to make contributions (the normal time limits will apply) and it is hoped that this session will enable a sharing of views and most importantly experiences that in turn will assist us, the Conference, in dealing with the resolutions.

7. Copies of the Briefing document for the Methodist people on the arguments for and against the Boycott Divestment Sanctions Movement (BDS) referred to in agenda item 23 are available from the Connexional Team Stand.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Memorials Committee, all Memorials will either be taken with existing business to which they relate or placed in *en bloc* as shown in the table below.

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Connection to other business</b>
M1	Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales	19 Response to the CCCW
M2	Commission of the Covenanted Churches in Wales	19 Response to the CCCW
M3	Review of stationing procedures	<i>En bloc</i>
M4	Review of stationing procedures	<i>En bloc</i>
M5	Sabbaticals	<i>En bloc</i>
M6	Reinstatement	<i>En bloc</i>
M7	Membership of supernumeraries	<i>En bloc</i>
M8	Church stewards and lay leadership	<i>En bloc</i>
M9	Youth President - membership of the Methodist Council	44 Children & Youth Assembly
M10	Youth President - membership of the Methodist Council	44 Children & Youth Assembly
M11	Youth President - membership of the Methodist Council	44 Children & Youth Assembly
M12	Evangelical faith	<i>En bloc</i>
M13	Connexional Allowances Committee	33 Connexional Allowances Committee
M14	Connexional Allowances Committee	33 Connexional Allowances Committee
M15	Connexional Central Services Budget	29 Budget
M16	Connexional Central Services Budget	29 Budget
M17	Connexional Central Services Budget	29 Budget
M18	Connexional Central Services Budget	29 Budget
M19	Connexional Central Services Budget	29 Budget
M20	District assessments	29 Budget (assessments)
M21	Standardised formula for assessments	29 Budget
M22	JMA	36 One Mission
M23	JMA	36 One Mission
M24	JMA	36 One Mission
M25	JMA	36 One Mission
M26	JMA	36 One Mission
M27	TMCP	<i>En bloc</i>
M28	Access to data collection processes	<i>En bloc</i>
M29	Access to data collection processes	<i>En bloc</i>
M30	Access to data collection processes	<i>En bloc</i>

M31	Access to data collection processes	<i>En bloc</i>
M32	Access to data collection processes	<i>En bloc</i>
M33	Access to church resources	<i>En bloc</i>
M34	Standardised job descriptions	<i>En bloc</i>
M35	Covenants of Care	34 Safeguarding general report
M36	Mission Alongside the Poor	33 Methodist Council
M37	Mission Alongside the Poor	33 Methodist Council
M38	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M39	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M40	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M41	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M42	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M43	Investing in fossil fuels	10 JACEI
M44	Climate change	<i>En bloc</i>
M45	Nestlé	10 JACEI
M46	Caste discrimination	<i>En bloc</i>
M47	Caste discrimination	<i>En bloc</i>
M48	Advertising of gambling and payday loans	<i>En bloc</i>
M49	Israel and Palestine	23 BDS
M50	UKIP	<i>En bloc</i>
M51	Use of Methodist premises for political meetings	<i>En bloc</i>
M52	Same sex marriage	40 Marriage and Civil Partnerships

9. The list of en bloc items of business (page 27) has since been updated and is as printed below:

6. MRDF (All We Can)
7. Guernsey
8. Jersey
12. MDO General Report
13. Westminster College Oxford Trust
14. Methodist Homes
15. Methodist Ministers Housing Society
17. Ecumenical Report
20. Stationing Committee
22. TMCP
26. New Room Bristol
27. Methodist Ministers Pension Scheme
28. Methodist Independent Schools Trust
38. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
42. Aldershot Methodist Military Trust
43. Wesley House
50. Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster
52. Central Finance Board
57. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
60. Fernley Hartley Trust
61. Sharing Agreements and Ecumenical Partnerships

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**B/1. The Conference received the Report.**