

#### 4. Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Helen D Cameron Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
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1. The Presbyteral Session proceeds for much of its business by way of conversation. Under Clause 23(m) of the Deed of Union the Presbyteral Session may discuss any subject in the Agenda of the Representative Session or any subject within the jurisdiction of the Conference and communicate its views thereon to the Representative Session by resolution or otherwise.
2. Members of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference may submit Notices of Motion for the Conference to consider (see below for the procedures). They may also ask that the Session be able to confer from a presbyteral perspective about particular items in the published Agenda of the Conference. All such requests will be considered by the Business Committee and time found for them where possible.
3. So far the following reports have been identified by the Committee:
  - Supervision of Ministers
  - Statistics for Mission triennial return

In addition the draft Code of Ministerial Conduct will be discussed in the Presbyteral Session of the Conference as part of a wide consultation requested by the Methodist Council in January 2017 (see the Methodist Council report section I).

4. The Presbyteral Session of the Conference will meet in closed session at 9.35 on Friday 23 June, and this is expected to last for no longer than one hour. During this time the Vice-President will lead a session for those presbyters who are not voting members of the Session entitled “*Why I’m right and you’re wrong – or why we struggle to agree about justice*”.
5. The Presbyteral Session defines by resolution who may normally be present at closed sessions. Attendance when it sits as a court of appeal is governed by Standing Order 1145(7).

The Conference is reminded of a distinction made in Section G of the Law and Polity Committee report to the 2008 Conference entitled *Attendance at the Closed Session of the Ministerial Session of the Conference*. There is a difference between the Conference’s conferring on general questions of policy and principle on the one hand, and its decision-making on particular cases to do with identifiable individuals on the other. Because of the need for confidentiality and for other legal reasons, the latter needs to be dealt with in closed session, and only those who will bear the responsibility for the decisions that are made should hear or otherwise receive the information about the cases concerned. This means that those presbyters who are not members of the Representative Session of the Conference, but are attending the Presbyteral Session of the Conference with the permission of a Presbyteral Session of a Synod and at their own expense are not able to be present in the closed sessions of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference: in other words, they do not participate in the decision-making in those closed sessions, nor do they hear the information that is shared within them.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/3 will therefore be moved.

6. Details about candidates, probationers, those proposed for transfer and other permissions and authorisations will be made available to voting members of the Conference. Information regarding candidates is confidential to those who are present in the closed session and the booklet of details will be collected in at the end of that closed session. If there are any questions regarding particular cases, please contact Ian Jacobs ([jacobsi@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:jacobsi@methodistchurch.org.uk)) as soon as possible in advance in order that any necessary information can be collated in time for when the business is dealt with.

7. **The Record**

For the sake of accuracy it is desirable that the Presbyteral Session delegates to the Representative Session the responsibility for adopting the Record of its Session, thus allowing time for members to check its details.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/4 will therefore be moved.

8. **Notices of Motion**

The procedure for the submission of Notices of Motion is set out in SO 132, which can be found in the Rules of Procedure, printed at the beginning of Volume One. The deadline for submission of Notices of Motion is 17.15 on Thursday 22 June; however it would assist in the planning of the Session if Notices of Motion could be submitted to the Assistant Secretary by 16.00 on Wednesday 21 June.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**4/1. The Conference adopted the Report.**