

Basic Information	
Title	Singing the Faith
Contact Name and Details	Revd Barbara Bircumshaw, Chair, MRG (revdbirc@btinternet.com) Professor Peter Brophy, Editor-in-Chief, MRG (mrg@brophy.org.uk)
Status of Paper	Draft
Action Required	To decide resolutions
Resolutions	As set out at the end of the Report

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	The Report brings to the Conference the content of a new Methodist hymn collection for authorisation, together with the report of the MRG.
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Report • Reconfiguration of the Music Resources Group (MRG) • Working methods • The work of the MRG during 2009–10 • The final collection • Procedure at Conference
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	<p>The Methodist Publishing House (MPH) was directed by the Conference of 2004 to bring forward a proposal for a supplement to <i>Hymns & Psalms</i>. This resulted in the setting up of a Music Resources Group. The Conference also endorsed the concept of a rolling resource of recommended contemporary hymns and songs.</p> <p>In 2007 the Conference authorised the preparation of a new collection (rather than a supplement) in succession to <i>Hymns & Psalms</i> in addition to the rolling resource and a constantly updated collection of topical and contemporary material to be made available on the Church's website.</p> <p>In 2008, the MRG became a Conference Group (rather than reporting through MPH) and in 2009 the Conference re-affirmed its desire to publish a new, authorised collection. Resolution 35/1C stated that the Conference "confirms its understanding that a new authorised collection of Methodist hymns and songs for use in Methodist worship means one which together with previously authorised collections (such as <i>Hymns & Psalms</i> and <i>The Methodist Hymn Book</i>) shall form the body of authorised Methodist hymnody". The current report brings that collection to the Conference for approval and formal authorisation.</p> <p>Resolution 35/4 also authorised the preparation of a rolling resource of commended material and/or regularly updated online resources of topical and contemporary material.</p>

Consultations	Public consultation took place in advance of Conference 2009; the results of that process informed the revised collection which was then considered in detail by the Faith & Order Network and Committee during 2009–10. The collection was again revised and the Faith & Order Committee again consulted on changes to reach an agreed position.
Risk	<p>The major risk of not proceeding is the loss to the Church of a major aid to worship and personal devotion, leaving the 30-year old <i>Hymns & Psalms</i> as the most recent authorised collection.</p> <p>The major risk of proceeding is to the financial investment, which under the negotiated Heads of Agreement with Hymns Ancient & Modern, would be £12,000. This is small in relation to the alternative of in-house production. It is anticipated that it will be recouped from royalties on sales.</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Conference of 2007 directed the Music Resources Group (MRG) to prepare a new 'baseline' collection of authorised hymns and songs for Methodist worship in succession to *Hymns & Psalms*. During 2008–9 a draft list of hymns was published on the Methodist Church website and in the *Methodist Recorder*. A considerable number of responses were received and these were evaluated by the MRG with the assistance of Revd Brian Hoare. A number of respondents also commented on the need for a new collection and issues such as the balance of the collection and the Table of Contents.
- 1.2 The MRG produced a further report to the Conference in 2009 in which the Conference was asked to reaffirm its desire for a new authorised collection for the Methodist Church and also the criteria used to determine the inclusion and exclusion of items from the collection. After a lengthy debate Conference voted in favour of the MRG continuing its work of preparing the publication of a new authorised hymnbook, in succession to *Hymns & Psalms*, in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee and the Methodist Council. The Conference stated that "a new authorised collection ... means one which together with previously authorised collections (such as *Hymns & Psalms* and *The Methodist Hymn Book*) shall form the body of authorised Methodist hymnody". The criteria presented by the MRG were accepted. It was agreed that the collection would be produced as a printed resource, but as much material as possible would be made available electronically.
- 1.3 The Conference agreed that the Secretary for Internal Relationships and the then Head of Christian Communication, Evangelism and Advocacy, in liaison with the Chair of the MRG, should reconfigure the MRG so that the Group was fit for purpose for the next stage.
- 1.4 The Conference also directed that work should continue on the development of a 'Rolling Resource' of commended material, additional to the new collection, and for a collection of topical and contemporary material to be received and made available on an appropriate website.

2. The Reconfiguration of the MRG

- 2.1 In June 2009 the MRG consisted of sixteen members with a Words Sub Group and a Music Sub Group. Following the Conference decision this large group was disbanded and replaced by a several small groups: a Content Selection Group, a Production and Marketing Group, a Music Group, an Appendices Group and a Devotional Resource Group. (The list of members is given in Appendix 1.) Professor Peter Brophy was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the project charged with overseeing the production of the new collection.
- 2.2 As a result several members left the MRG including Revd Andrew Pratt, Marjorie Dobson and Damian Boddy and thanks must be expressed for the considerable contribution they made to the MRG since the Group was formed by Conference in 2004. Thanks are also due to David Wigley who was one of the Youth Representatives.

3. Working Methods

- 3.1 The MRG has worked to the criteria agreed by the Conference and set out in Appendix A to our 2009 Report. In so doing it has examined literally thousands of texts and carefully discussed the merits of each item selected for possible inclusion in the collection.
- 3.2 During its deliberations the MRG has been acutely aware that there are significant differences of emphasis within the Methodist Church, ranging from understandings of theology and the Bible through to preferences for different musical genres. We are a broad church and our hymn book needs to reflect that fact.
- 3.3 Our approach in the MRG is well-illustrated by the long and careful consideration given both

to hymns which some would regard as 'archaic' and to contemporary worship songs which others feel lack either weight or appropriate imagery. Of all the hymns and songs we considered it is perhaps *In Christ Alone* which best illustrates these issues and our approach to them. This is a modern composition which is near the top of most lists of popular Christian worship songs and which is widely sung in our churches. It is especially loved by our young people. Yet for many Methodists it presents problems. Firstly it speaks of 'the wrath of God' being 'satisfied' by the crucifixion. Secondly, it says 'sin's curse has lost its grip on me'. Thirdly, it uses male language when it speaks of humanity: 'no scheme of man'. The MRG considered each of these issues and requested permission from the copyright holder to vary the words to make them more inclusive of Methodist belief and practice in each instance. Such permission was refused. So the immediate question was, should the song stay in our collection or be removed?

3.4 We asked the advice of the Faith & Order Committee, through its Secretary, and received a reply which pointed out that while the first point represented a view of the atonement that might not be central to Methodist understanding, it was nevertheless a view held by some within the Church and can be found in Charles Wesley's hymns. (For example, the hymn *Depth of mercy! can there be*, which appeared in John Wesley's *A Collection of Hymns, for the use of the people called Methodists*, contains the lines 'Jesus speaks, and pleads his blood!/He disarms the wrath of God' – although that verse was omitted from the version in the *Methodist Hymn Book*.) To include a small number of hymns which took this view would therefore seem reasonable – there are many others in the collection which espouse a different view of the atonement (see also section 5.1.3 below). The second point, where we would have preferred 'sin's power ...' rather than 'sin's curse ...' was not felt to be critical. But the third, where the word 'man' is used where what is meant is 'humankind', is diametrically opposed to Church policy on inclusive language. A considerable number of modern songs had already been rejected on precisely these grounds. But where does the balance lie between making a small number of exceptions, and excluding songs which are deeply meaningful to many in the Church? After careful debate we concluded that *In Christ Alone* should be included. While this was probably one of our most difficult decisions, it is illustrative of the depth of analysis and thought which has gone into the selection of the whole collection.

4. The work of the MRG during 2009–10

4.1 Having taken into account the comments received through the 2008–9 consultation process, the MRG worked hard to produce a revised list of hymns. Moreover the initial list of approximately seven hundred hymns was incomplete and additional material was needed to produce a balanced collection. In early September 2009 the full words of the revised collection was submitted to the Faith & Order Committee and Network for scrutiny.

4.2 At the same time a number of independent experts were recruited to examine the proposed collection from non-theological perspectives, including such matters as the use of language, scansion and clarity of expression.

4.3 During this period, the MRG Content Selection Group, anticipating that some changes would be needed to the contents, continued to examine possible new material for inclusion. Simultaneously, the Devotional Resource Group scrutinised the collection from the perspective of personal devotional use. The same group also advised on the selection of psalms and canticles and on the possible inclusion of short prayers, although this latter possibility was not pursued. The Music Group continued the task of examining each set tune and determining where new arrangements or tunes were needed. The Appendices and Indexes Group began its work, although its main input would come later. Finally, the Production & Marketing Group began the task of identifying the optimal publication process to achieve the best possible product in the most efficient and effective manner – and to achieve wide take-up among Methodist churches.

- 4.4 At the end of November 2009 the Faith & Order Committee met and gave detailed consideration to the comments submitted to it by the Faith & Order Network Resource Groups. This resulted in a lengthy report to the MRG, identifying both generic issues and specific concerns relating to individual hymns and songs. The Faith & Order Committee also made a small number of suggestions of additional items for consideration. Reports were also received from the independent scrutineers.
- 4.5 During December 2009 the Content Selection Group worked intensively to address the issues raised through scrutiny. Approximately 80 hymns were removed from the draft collection and substituted. However, these were not simply like-for-like substitutes; rather the process was used to rebalance the collection in a number of ways, as described in section 5.1 below. At the end of this period the newly revised collection was sent back to the Faith & Order Committee for further scrutiny while new items were again scrutinised independently.
- 4.6 At the end of this process the MRG and the Faith & Order Committee were in broad agreement. While there were matters of detail to be resolved, this agreement represented a major milestone on the road to a new authorised collection. The Content Selection Group met during March and April 2010 to resolve the outstanding issues, including the canticles and psalms, and to agree the final collection to be presented to the Conference. At the close of this process the Faith & Order Committee felt that it would be able to recommend the collection for authorisation by the Conference (see its Report).
- 4.7 During the whole of this period the Music Group continued to meet and to work on musical arrangements. It has evaluated the musical settings of all the items on the final contents list. The group's guiding principles have been to ensure that all items are suitable for congregational singing and that tunes are presented and arranged so that they are accessible to musicians of varying abilities while maintaining the integrity of the original composition. Well-known associations of texts and tunes have been preserved, a selection of descants to popular hymns have been provided and new arrangements of many modern songs and hymns have been made to enable them to be learned more easily by musicians and congregations alike. New tunes have been commissioned for a number of texts, with the aim of providing stylistic variety.

5. The final collection

- 5.1 During the past months the MRG has subjected the collection to detailed analysis against a number of criteria to ensure that it was appropriately balanced. These criteria included:

5.1.1 Genre

The Content Selection Group was aware, and the Faith & Order Committee noted, that the emphasis in the proposed collection was on hymns rather than on worship songs. In late 2009 the Content Selection Group therefore made a renewed attempt to identify a greater number of appropriate contemporary worship songs. However, a number of factors militate against this genre: by their nature (and following the pattern of modern popular music) songs have a tendency to be more ephemeral than hymns; songs do not address the breadth of issues found in a congregational hymn collection; few modern song writers are Methodist and their theology is not always hospitable to Methodist doctrine. Furthermore, the MRG needed to produce a collection which retains the best of the traditional hymnody of the church, which creates a balance in favour of hymns from the start. Despite these difficulties, more songs were identified and have been included in the collection.

The MRG believes that the balance of the collection is now appropriate to its audience. Furthermore, having carefully checked the balance of traditional hymns/modern hymns/songs in each section we believe that the collection is satisfactory in this regard not just as a whole but within its internal structure.

5.1.2 Hymns to and hymns about God

A question was raised as to whether the balance between hymns about God and hymns addressed to God was right (using 'hymn' in this context to include all genres). The analysis undertaken by the Content Selection Group showed that the split was almost exactly equal between the two categories, although many hymns contain elements of both. While there is no 'right' answer, we felt that overall this was a reasonable balance across the collection.

5.1.3 Theories of the atonement

Both the MRG and Faith & Order were concerned that the hymn collection should reflect Methodist understandings of the atonement. In considering this issue, we have been aware that the Methodist *Catechism* notes that the 'Bible uses various expressions ... None of these is complete in itself: together they point to the fact that through the cross God acted decisively on behalf of the world he created'. Our analysis examined hymns and songs in the sections of the collection most concerned with Jesus' life and death and noted how many expressly referred to one or more of the following atonement theories: Jesus' death as sacrifice; penal substitution; victory over evil; or, an act of love. At the same time, it should be noted that many of the hymns outside these sections have some reference to salvation brought about by God's gracious actions through Christ's Passion and Death, while many of the hymns in the key sections speak of Christ's death saving us without going into the 'mechanics'.

The results of this analysis showed 28 hymns speaking generally of Christ's 'sacrifice'; 10 hymns referring to 'penal substitution'; 17 hymns referring to 'victory'; and, 20 referring to an 'act of love'

We consider that this is a reasonable spread which will enable preachers and worship leaders to address Christ's death and resurrection in a balanced manner.

5.1.4 Gender balance

We were able to undertake some analysis of the gender balance of the collection from a number of perspectives. The following discussion summarises these findings:

5.1.4.1 MRG has been aware of a number of factors which have made it difficult to achieve a fully satisfactory gender balance both in authorship and in the use of language. One issue is that there are fewer female than male published authors. In part this problem arises from historical patterns which are bound to be reflected in a hymn collection which aims to include the traditional as well as the modern – gender balance is not helped by the fact that Charles Wesley was male! But it is also true that modern writers – and especially song writers – are predominantly male. Thus nine out of the top ten songs in churches, as reported by Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI), are authored by men. But the MRG has expressed concern that there is some evidence that female authors' work is being rejected because the type of imagery they use and we believe that this issue needs further analysis and reflection, not least to inform the editors of the Rolling Resource.

5.1.4.2 The question of inclusive language when we speak of God is a difficult one. MRG appreciates that we need to speak clearly of the Trinity and that to use 'God' when we mean the first person of the Trinity is unsatisfactory. However, given that it is Methodist Church policy to use inclusive language, and that the use of 'he' is often derived more from the English language's lack of a non-gendered pronoun than any other consideration, the situation with modern hymnody can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. To find that 'he' is used 50 times as frequently as 'she' in our collection is startling. However, only a far more radical approach than we believe would be acceptable to the Church could create a collection with anything approaching

balance in the use of language. MRG feels that it has done its best to address the issues but that they need further attention elsewhere in the Church's deliberations.

5.1.5 **The lectionary**

The Group commissioned a research officer in the Connexional Team, and drew on its own work, to check whether each Sunday in the lectionary was supported by at least one hymn. We would not expect, of course, that every passage would have a matching hymn (with just over 800 hymns in the collection and 951 lectionary passages this would clearly be difficult to achieve even were it the sole objective!). We have not found an instance where a lectionary Sunday is not directly supported by at least one hymn.

5.1.6 **Children and young people**

5.1.6.1 The MRG has been aware since it started its work of the need to include a reasonable number and range of hymns and songs which are meaningful to, and singable by, people of all ages but especially to ensure that the needs of children and young people are fully met. It has been helpful to have members of the Youth Conference/Assembly as full members of the MRG at the heart of our deliberations and we owe a debt of gratitude to them.

5.1.6.2 Despite the efforts made we have been aware of deficiencies in this area and the Faith & Order Committee response in November 2009 reflected the same concern, including a recommendation that we review further the resources for young people. This has been done. The Collection now presented to the Conference provides an increased number of new items within this category.

5.1.6.3 In selecting these items the MRG has looked carefully at the most popular children's hymns/songs in Britain today, being aware that if children are able to sing in church what they sing at school there will be many benefits. Some of these hymns may appear dated from a church perspective yet they remain firm favourites in schools. Provided that they express faith in an acceptable idiom we have seen no reason to exclude them.

5.1.7 **The World Church**

The MRG has also been aware that there is a wealth of hymns and songs emanating from the World Church and has tried to draw extensively on these non-British traditions. While we would not claim that the collection is representative of the world church – its predisposition to British writers is inevitable given our history, traditions and intention – we have attempted to include a significant range of such material.

5.2 The collection also contains a section of liturgical settings and sung responses, which we believe will enhance the worship of our Church. These include, for example, settings of the *Kyrie*, the *Sanctus* and the *Lord's Prayer* as well as material from the Taizé and Iona traditions.

5.3 As in *Hymns & Psalms* the collection is concluded by a section of canticles and psalms. The canticles will be the same as those in the earlier book. The psalms have been selected on the basis of their use within the liturgy and within the lectionary. Either the NRSV or Common Worship translation will be used, depending on which is felt to be most appropriate for congregational use. In this section, canticles and psalms are not set to music, although many of them are set as or form the inspiration for hymns found in the body of the collection.

5.4 It is intended to provide a comprehensive set of indexes in the full music editions of the hymn book and even more useful aids will be made available via the Church website.

5.5 The MRG examined a wide range of possible titles for the new collection. It was agreed that the term 'Methodist' should not be used in the title so as to make the collection as attractive

as possible ecumenically. Many suggested and attractive titles have already been used by others. After careful consideration the decision was made to recommend that the collection be published under what has been our working title for a considerable time: *Singing the Faith*. We believe that this title encapsulates both our Methodist heritage, for we were 'born in song', and the faith we share with the church worldwide.

5.6 The final collection is now presented to the Conference for authorisation. A list of first lines, authors and tune names is being published on the Church website and in the *Methodist Recorder* and will be distributed to Representatives with the Agenda. The full words of all the items in the collection cannot be published in these ways because of copyright restrictions. However, arrangements have been made to make the full words available for reference by Representatives during the meeting of the Conference. Section 7 below provides details of the suggested procedure for considering the collection in detail, as approved by the Methodist Council.

6. Arrangements for publication of the collection

6.1 During 2009–10 the MRG's Production & Marketing Group has worked to secure the most appropriate arrangements for publication of the new collection. The Church does not possess the expertise or capacity to produce the hymn book to the standards of excellence that would rightly be expected and we have therefore explored the most appropriate way to draw on the expertise of others. One option would be to hand over the whole process to an external publisher but this would represent both a loss of control over presentation and an inability to influence marketing and, importantly, the price which churches and individuals would have to pay. For that reason we have pursued the option of a partnership with an experienced, external publisher.

6.2 Proposals from three commercial organisations with experience of producing hymn books were received and evaluated. After careful deliberation, Heads of Agreement (i.e. draft contract terms which are subject to the approval of the Conference to proceed) have been signed with Hymns Ancient & Modern, the publishers of a considerable number of recent hymn books including *Church Hymnary 4* for the Church of Scotland and the *Irish Presbyterian Hymnbook*.

6.3 Under this agreement, the new hymn book will be sold direct by Hymns Ancient & Modern to churches and individuals. It will not generally be sold through bookshops etc. since, among other considerations, the discounts which would have to be offered would greatly inflate the selling price. Using this mechanism we anticipate that the purchase price of the full music edition will be £30; of the words edition £9; and of the large print edition £15. The agreement provides for the Church to make an investment of £12,000 in advance of publication, which we are confident would be recouped from royalties on sales within three years of publication.

6.4 It is intended that a CDROM will be made available alongside the printed editions. At the time of writing this Report discussions were ongoing as to the exact contents made available in this way, although the minimum will be the words of all hymns for which copyright clearance for this type of publication can be obtained. Formatting will support the use of projected words in churches.

6.5 If the Conference authorises the publication of the new collection there will be an intensive period of work during 2010–11 in order to achieve publication in June 2011. Part of this process is the obtaining of formal copyright permission for the reproduction of hymns and songs which are still in copyright. Experience suggests that during this process some queries will arise and it is possible that copyright holders will refuse to allow variations in words which we are seeking. In those cases a rapid decision will need to be taken as to whether the item should be included in its unmodified form. Since such questions cannot be presented to the Conference for its decision, it is proposed that the Chair of the MRG, Revd Barbara

Bircumshaw, should be authorised to determine the course of action to take. In so doing she will consult with other members of the MRG and with the Secretary of the Faith & Order Committee.

6.6 The Connexional Team is undertaking a carefully-designed marketing communications campaign. The objectives of this campaign include creating awareness of the new collection and ensuring churches have everything they need to make an informed decision to purchase. Appropriate Methodist communication channels will be used. A budget has been agreed to ensure that the marketing objectives are fulfilled.

6.7 During 2010–11, there will be a need for members of the MRG to continue to offer advice on matters of detail and to complete the commissioning of new arrangements as well as steering the collection to publication. For this reason it is proposed that the existing membership of the MRG should be reappointed for one final year, anticipating that at the Conference of 2011 the MRG will present its final Report and will then be disbanded.

7. Procedure at Conference

7.1 Following a recommendation made to the April meeting of the Methodist Council, the following procedure has been proposed in relation to authorisation of the new collection by the Conference.

7.2 The list of contents is being distributed to members of the Conference with the Agenda and other papers. This includes the names of each hymn's author(s) and the tune(s).

7.3 The full words, again with the names of tunes, will be available to members during Conference for reference. For copyright reasons it is not possible for multiple or electronic copies to be made available to individuals.

7.4 The MRG Report itself will be introduced early within the Representative Session, but the vote on any amendments, on the Report itself and on authorisation will take place on the final day after debate in, and report back by, a Reference Group (see below).

7.5 Any Notices of Motion will be requested prior to the meeting of the Conference or, at latest, by coffee time on the Monday of the Representative Session. Detailed amendments to texts will not be taken on the floor or during debate in full session.

7.6 A small Reference Group will be appointed at the start of the Representative Session to look at Notices of Motion and any matters of detail referred to it. This Group will then make its report on the Thursday at which point the Resolution to authorise the collection will be taken.

8. The Rolling Resource

8.1 In February 2010 the Methodist Council (MC/10/06) considered a broad outline of the potential scope of the Rolling Resource based on a suggested three-year phased development and resolved to recommend to Conference that the launch of the first phase of a web-based Rolling Resource be aligned with that of the hymn collection in 2011.

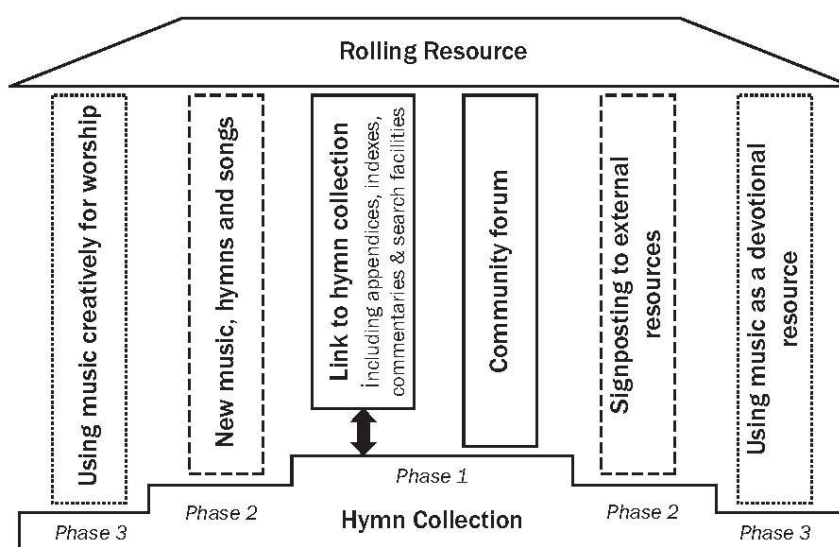
8.2 In seeking to identify distinctiveness and added-value, the Rolling Resource could be built around six key pillars of activity building on the core hymn collection. A possible structure, developed and implemented via a phased approach, could be as shown below

8.3 Phase 1: Associated core hymn collection products

8.3.1 The Rolling Resource could have a particularly pivotal role to play as the new collection is launched providing additional web-based resources that will make this a truly credible 21st century collection. Although access to either the hymn book and/or the Rolling Resource would not be mutually dependent, the Rolling Resource could be used to offer

a range of free extra resources and products related to the core hymn collection. This could include appendices, indexes and electronic search facilities beyond and above those that will be available as an integral part of the printed core collection.

- 8.3.2 *Community forum*. The rolling resource could be used to harness the energy and creative spirit of those passionate about music within Methodism. A community forum could act as a space for users to share ideas and encouragements.



8.4 Phase 2: New music, hymns and songs

- 8.4.1 A truly ‘rolling’ resource could be updated regularly with new hymns, songs and other material as and when these are available – clearly reflecting one of the key purposes of this resource identified by Conference. The success of sharing new music via the Rolling Resource would depend on the demand amongst hymn writers for a web-based location for sharing their work and the feasibility in the context of copyright legislation.
- 8.4.2 Signposting to external resources. As well as offering a selection of new hymns and songs, the Rolling Resource could also act as a gateway and signpost to other web-based resources to facilitate creative worship.

8.5 Phase 3: Using music creatively for worship

- 8.5.1 Using music as a devotional resource. The Rolling Resource could provide access to suggestions and advice from experts and enthusiasts for using music creatively in worship. Articles and interviews could also be added to offer ideas for using music and lyrics as devotional resources for individuals and small groups.

8.6 The potential costs of the proposals outlined above have been estimated as being in the region of £16,000 in the first year. There would also be ongoing development and maintenance costs each year.

8.7 A Rolling Resource working group has now been established to further develop these ideas.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1 The MRG believes that the new hymn collection now presented to the Conference represents the best of both the old and the new, and is well-suited to the needs of the Methodist Church

in this, the second decade of the twenty-first century. In making this statement we are well aware of the variety of styles of worship, and indeed of theological emphasis, within the modern Methodist Church. Nevertheless, and emphasising once again that Methodism was born in song, it is our conviction that the collection will enable the Methodist people to express their Christian belief in song, will support them in their private devotions and will allow them to explore their faith in both traditional and modern imagery and musical expression.

9.2 In recommending the collection to the Conference, the MRG once again affirms its belief that it will further the Methodist Church Priority: To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and will renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and the Church, enabling the Church to underpin everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer.

9.3 In making our Report to the Conference we wish to place on record our and the Church's debt of gratitude to the many people from across the Church who have given unstintingly of their time during the past year, and indeed during the past six years, to enable the Conference to be presented with a new Methodist hymn collection for authorisation.

***RESOLUTIONS

29/1. The Conference received the Report of the Music Resources Group as supplemented by the following material:

1. The deal negotiated with Hymns Ancient and Modern is a one-off payment of £12,000 and will ensure the publication of the music edition (with the availability of words on CD as copyright allows), words and large print editions. The other publishers we spoke to before we secured this deal, all required substantially more investment up front.

Hymns Ancient and Modern is a not-for-profit making organisation with many years' experience of publishing denominational hymn books.
2. We have negotiated with Hymns Ancient and Modern a pre-publication price of £7 for the words edition, as against the post-publication price of £9.
3. The deal with Hymns Ancient and Modern is a royalty-based deal. Our aim is to re-coup the £12,000 within three years. We are confident that we can achieve this. If 10% of churches (580) bought 2 music copies, 10 word copies and 3 large print copies we would raise £12,528 (with pre-publication offer) and £13,602 (without).
4. The heads of agreement will be ratified and signed by Council on behalf of the Conference.
5. Churches and individuals will be able to purchase copies via bookshops or direct from Hymns Ancient and Modern. In keeping with current trends, we anticipate that the majority will purchase direct, but Hymns Ancient and Modern is a trade publisher and distributor, so *Singing the Faith* will be available to bookshops when required.
6. A sampler will be produced ahead of publication for churches.

7. Connexional Team expenditure to date is within the 2009/10 budget and currently stands at £8851.36. It should be noted that £3,500 of this was the cost of inserting the four-page listing of the proposed contents in the Methodist Recorder, as requested by Council. The majority of the remaining money has been spent on paying the expenses of those volunteers who have given freely of their time.
8. The Music Resources Group is committed to investigating the costs involved in developing additional formats once we have produced the core formats (music, words and large print editions), for example, Braille edition and a CD of backing tracks.

29/2. The Conference accepted the Report of the Reference Group and noted the following:

The Reference Group had concerned itself with discussions in three areas:

1. The Heads of Agreement as directed by the Conference.
2. Points of clarification raised with the Chair of the Group (David Walton) by members of the Conference
3. Formal Notices of Motion.

Points of Clarification

The group noted that the collection would be in 1 music book. Word versions would be available either in a book or on a CD.

The CD would be included in the Music Copy but would only include words, not music.

There are no plans at the moment to produce a two-volume organ copy. The group asked that the Production and Marketing sub-group investigate the possibility of producing this.

The Conference then adopted Notice of Motion 103 as follows:

The Conference is grateful to the Music Resource Group for the work done so far in producing the new hymn and song collection. Mindful of the number of Methodist churches who struggle to find musicians, the Conference directs the Music Resource Group to investigate the costs of producing backing tracks to accompany the hymns and songs on the collection and to report to the Methodist Council.

29/3. The Conference authorised the collection and the title, *Singing the Faith*.

29/4. The Conference appointed Revd Barbara Bircumshaw to make decisions on its behalf on such matters of detail, related to copyright permission or other factors, which come to light between the meeting of the Conference and publication of the collection and in so doing to consult with other members of the MRG and with the Secretary of the Faith & Order Committee.

- 29/5. The Conference directed the Connexional Team to arrange for the collection to be published and to ensure that the published collection is available in advance of the meeting of the Conference in 2011.
- 29/6. The Conference directed the Connexional Team to publish phase 1 of the Rolling Resource concurrently with the publication of the new collection.
- 29/7. The Conference re-appointed the Music Resources Group.

Appendix 1 Members of the MRG

Chair: Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Editor-in-Chief: Professor Peter Brophy
(The Chair and Editor-in-Chief are *ex-officio* members of all the sub-groups)

Content Selection Group

Professor Peter Brophy (Chair)
Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Revd Alan Bolton
Revd Ian Howarth
Revd Paul Wood
Revd Kavula John
Revd Michaela Youngson
Ms Emma Parker (Youth Assembly representative)
Ms Ruth Jeffries
Revd John Alderdice (nominated by the Irish Conference)

Devotional Resource Group

Revd Norman Wallwork (Chair)
Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Professor Peter Brophy
Revd Dr John Lampard
Revd Michaela Youngson

Appendices, Indexes and Notes Group

Revd Ian Worsfold (Chair)
Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Professor Peter Brophy
Revd Philip Poynor

Music Group

Dr Martin Clarke (Chair)
Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Professor Peter Brophy
Revd Ian Howarth
Ms Nicola Morrison
Revd Paul Wood
Revd Ian Worsfold
Mr Paul Leddington Wright

Production and Marketing Group

Professor Peter Brophy (Chair)
Revd Barbara Bircumshaw
Dr Martin Clarke
Ms Suzanne Johnson
Mr Andrew Moore
Ms Carole Richmond