

Notice of Motion 2019/201: Review of the role of Youth President

The Conference notes the positive impact of the 2008 Youth Participation Strategy, especially the position of the Youth President. The Methodist Church, 3Generate and the Connexional Team have gone through an enormous amount of change in the past 11 years.

Recognising these changes, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to appoint a task group (to include at least 1 past Youth President, 1 past President or Vice-President of the Conference, 1 local youth worker, 1 former youth representative, 1 current youth representative and 2 other persons):

1. in consultation with 3Generate and former Youth Presidents to review the job description, person specification and other relevant aspects of the role of Methodist Youth President, and to present recommendations on how to develop the role for the next decade.
2. to report and bring recommendations to the Methodist Conference no later than 2021.

Proposed: Mr Michael C Pryke

Seconded: Ms Jasmine Yeboah

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Andrew W Fyall | 5. Mr Victor F Kuyeli |
| 2. Ms Rachel Collins | 6. Miss Grace McAloon |
| 3. Ms Emily Roe | 7. Mr Anthony Boateng |
| 4. Mrs Anna Malnutt | 8. The Revd Gillian M Newton |

Budgetary implications

Budget implications include time, expense and support costs to the proposed task group. Such implications are unlikely to be significant but cannot be incorporated within the existing budget.

Notice of Motion 2019/202: Reviewing Part 11 of Standing Orders

In the light of the significant changes, both in UK society and for the Methodist Church of Great Britain since our Standing Orders regarding complaints and discipline were drawn up, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to set the terms of reference for, and facilitate the work of a thorough review of Part 11 of our Standing Orders. This review should include and address how processes of Safeguarding, Complaints and Discipline, and Connexional Team Grievances, can best relate to each other.

The Conference seeks a set of processes that are able to be enacted in timescales that are fair for all concerned and that are appropriate to the capacity, resources and size of the Methodist Church of Great Britain as it is today.

Proposed: The Revd John Hellyer

Seconded: The Revd Gillian M Newton

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Stephen J Lindridge | 5. The Revd Graham Thompson |
| 2. Mrs Shelagh Morgan | 6. Deacon Karen McBride |
| 3. The Revd Peter E Barber | 7. The Revd Dr Bonni-Belle F Pickard |
| 4. The Revd Nigel Cowgill | 8. Ms Jennifer M Jackson |

Budgetary implications

This work is likely to be significant and cannot be incorporated within the existing budget.

Notice of Motion 2019/203: Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme (MMPS)

It was reported at the Annual General Meeting of the Central Finance Board (CFB), held in London on 25th April 2019, that the Directors of the MMPS are proposing to begin removing a proportion of the funds under investment from the CFB and transfer them to external managers to invest into 'Liability Driven Investments' (LDIs), with an expectation that this will reduce their investment risk, but consequentially also reduce the long term total investment return (also see p324 of the Conference Agenda). Such a withdrawal will cause the costs incurred by the CFB to be spread across a smaller investment base and will likely lead to additional fees being charged to the Connexion as a whole.

The Conference established a Pension Reserve Fund in order to mitigate many of the risks involved in funding and administering the MMPS and this has been used, over the years, to help to reduce a historic funding deficit. This fund is anticipated to continue growing in the coming years to further mitigate fluctuations in the investment market.

The Conference urges the Directors of the MMPS to reconsider the decision to move funds from the management of the CFB so that:

- a. it can be sure that all funds are ethically invested in accordance with advice from JACEI (Joint Advisory Committee on the Ethics of Investment);
- b. long term investment returns are maximised, within an appropriate investment strategy;
- c. costs to other parts of the Connexion do not increase unnecessarily and
- d. the Pension Reserve Fund can continue to be used for the purpose for which it has been designated.

Proposed: The Revd Graham Thompson

Seconded: The Revd Leslie M Newton

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Paul H Davis | 5. Mrs Pamela J Lavender |
| 2. Ms Ruby Beech | 6. The Revd Eleanor J Smith |
| 3. The Revd Stephen J Lindridge | 7. The Revd Patricia M Williams |
| 4. The Revd John Hellyer | 8. Miss Margaret A Bowerman |

Budgetary implications

No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/204: Reducing the Use of Plastic

The Conference encourages its members and churches to look always to reduce plastic pollution. To encourage them to use alternative sustainable products and resources that are already available. The Conference requests that the President and Vice-President are each supplied with a reusable water bottle to use during their year. The Conference encourages churches who have a café to consider signing up to the "refill" scheme, offering free refills for water bottles.

Proposed: Miss Siân Davidson

Seconded: Mr Ian C White

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Miss Grace McAloon | 5. The Revd Yvonne J Pearson |
| 2. Mr Michael C Pryke | 6. Mrs Val Mayers |
| 3. Mrs Denise S Tomlinson | 7. Mr James Blackhall |
| 4. The Revd Linda J Catlow | 8. Ms Ruby Beech |

Budgetary implications No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/205: 'Lift the Ban – Give people seeking asylum the right to work'

In light of the ex-President's pastoral address, the Conference affirms the Methodist Church's commitment to the 'Lift the Ban Campaign'.

Currently, people seeking sanctuary in the UK are effectively banned from working. As a result, many are left to live in poverty, struggling to support themselves and their families, whilst our country wastes the talents of thousands of people. The campaign urges the Government to grant asylum seekers the right to work.

The Conference requests that:

1. A letter be sent to the Home Secretary asking him to grant the right to work for people seeking asylum, and their adult dependents, after six months of having lodged an asylum claim or further submission. Their search for work should be unconstrained by the shortage occupation list.
2. Members of the Conference be invited to sign the 'Lift the Ban' postcard produced by JPIT, and that these be collected together before the end of the Conference and sent with the letter to the Home Secretary.

Proposed: The Revd Sarah A Jemison

Seconded: Ms Irene McKay

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Nicholas B Baker | 5. Mr Keith Norman |
| 2. Mr Alister McClure | 6. The Revd Ian S Rutherford |
| 3. Mr Victor F Kuyeli | 7. The Revd Dr Roberta R Topham |
| 4. Mrs Elizabeth Chadwick | 8. The Revd Ruth M Crompton |

Budgetary implications

No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/206: Review of procedures following incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination

The Conference notes the significant work that has been undertaken by the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. However, continuing reports of incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination within the Methodist Church show there is more work to be done and raise major concerns about the adequacy of our current arrangements for the protection and safeguarding of victims.

The Conference therefore directs the EDI Committee to undertake a review of Connexional procedures and protocols, and Standing Orders, in liaison with the Law and Polity Committee and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, in order to

- Ensure their effectiveness in protecting and supporting victims who experience discrimination and hate.
- Ensure that churches and circuits are adequately protected and supported in taking measures to prevent the spread of incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination by particular individuals within their contexts.

In addition, the Conference directs the EDI Committee to provide:

1. for the collation and reporting of statistics at local Church, Circuit and District levels, on the number of incidents involving unlawful discrimination or hate;

2. recommendations for training and/or resources to meet needs within Circuits and Districts in regard to the management and resolution of incidents of unlawful discrimination or hate.

Proposed: The Revd Delyth A Liddell

Seconded: The Revd Farai Mapamula

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd David M Goodall
2. Mr Alister McClure
3. Ms Jasmine Yeboah
4. The Revd Charity D Madenyika
5. Ms Irene McKay
6. Ms Sally Rush
7. Ms Winnie Baffoe
8. The Revd Ian Howarth

Budgetary implications

Costs of resourcing and supporting the proposed work will be significant and this would not be covered by existing budgets.

Notice of Motion 2019/207: EDI Concerns in Stationing

The Conference is grateful for the work that has been done on its behalf by the many people involved in the stationing process. It acknowledges the increasing challenges faced by the Committee in deploying the ministerial resources of the Church in the most effective way and the attempts that have been made to improve the system.

The Conference notes with extreme concern the implication given in paragraph 2.6 that appropriate monitoring and auditing of processes with regard to equality, diversity and inclusion commitments are currently not being done. Many members of the Conference are very aware of situations in current and previous connexional years where issues of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or marital or family status have played a part in the failure to make a match. It recognises the immense pain and damage to vocation often done to individuals faced with such situations.

Whilst it is welcome news that monitoring is now on the Committee's agenda, the Conference directs that this issue be given top priority and that the Stationing Committee:

- a) establishes an EDI sub-committee to take forward this work, with membership including the Connexional EDI Adviser and at least one former President or Vice-President;
- b) seeks and records all feedback from individual ministers and Circuits where issues of exclusion or discrimination may have been factors in decisions reached;
- c) develops and implements audit tools, in consultation with the EDI Officer, whereby all processes and protocols involved in stationing are properly assessed for their compliance with the connexional EDI guidance and all relevant legislation;
- d) drafts and publishes guidelines for Stationing Matching Group, Stationing Advisory Group and Circuit Invitation Committees outlining the grounds by which matches and invitations can and cannot be refused in accordance with EDI policies, and provides appropriate training;
- e) liaises with the Law and Polity Committee to review guidance on complaints and reporting for those involved in the stationing process and where necessary designs appropriate interventions to ensure that discrimination can be tackled immediately once reported;
- f) establishes feedback and monitoring procedures that require Circuits, individual ministers and District Chairs or Lay Stationing reps to provide reasoned statements for decisions taken throughout the process;
- g) includes, from now on, a section on EDI in each report to the Conference detailing monitoring and progress to date.

Proposed: The Revd Delyth A Liddell

Seconded: Mrs Sheridan Pengelly

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Mrs Maryl Rees | 5. Mr David Clitheroe |
| 2. Mr Matthew Collins | 6. The Revd P Kofi Amissah |
| 3. Ms Rachel Collins | 7. The Revd Simon J Clarke |
| 4. The Revd Elizabeth J Singleton | 8. Deacon Joy M Everingham |

Budgetary implications

May be significant additional costs relating to requested work that will not be covered by existing budgets.

Notice of Motion 2019/208: Support for refugees

There was a passionate and energetic presentation given by Onjali Rauf at the Methodist Schools fringe event of the Conference on Saturday evening, in her discussion with the Revd Michaela Youngson, where she graphically informed those attending of the realities of the plight of refugees in our world; the magnitude of the problem and the need for a caring response.

Her award winning book 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' has been so well received, especially amongst young people, who have made moving and very practical responses to the needs of refugees.

The audience response was powerful, as our realisation of the need and wish to address this urgent matter was encouraged by hearing of the action of young children. The atmosphere and enthusiasm in the room developed palpably and in a quite inspiring way, stressing how such matters are best addressed by us working together, across ages, culture, faiths etc. The suggestion was made that we should lobby our Members of Parliament and that the active collaboration with children should be a powerful aspect of our response.

So what is our story?

In the light of this, the Conference:

- (a) affirms all who work to give support and relief to refugees
- (b) celebrates the inspiration and tenacity of young people in our schools, churches and communities
- (c) encourages Districts, Circuits and Churches to use 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' as a vehicle to liaise with schools in their locality and to create a group from church and school to request a face to face appointment with their local Member of Parliament to discuss the realities of these issues and to ask what their personal response is as to how our country can make a humane and compassionate response to this desperate, life threatening situation.

Proposed: Mr Keith Norman

Seconded: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. The Revd Rachel E Parkinson | 5. Miss Alison M Baalham |
| 2. The Revd Loraine N Mellor | 6. The Revd Helen D Cameron |
| 3. The Revd Paul Martin | 7. Ms Ruby Beech |
| 4. The Revd Karen A Beecham | 8. Mrs Catherine Roots |

Budgetary implications

No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/209: Sanctuary in Communities

The Conference commits itself to work alongside the Church of England on sanctuary in communities for young people affected by knife crime and gang culture and encourages Methodists to open up their churches and community facilities to offer 'safe sanctuary' spaces after school in their community.

Proposed: The Revd Stephen J Radford

Seconded: The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Ms Martha Rand | 5. The Revd Rachel E Parkinson |
| 2. The Revd Faith M Nyota | 6. The Revd Richard J Teal |
| 3. Mrs Leonie R O'Donoghue | 7. The Revd Richard M Andrew |
| 4. Mr Alister McClure | 8. Ms Jasmine F Yeboah |

Budgetary implications

No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/210: Mediterranean Hope

The coalition government in Italy has heralded a more difficult situation for refugees and migrants and those working on their behalf. The Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, was elected on an anti-migration ticket. His "Close the Ports" policy (announced via Twitter and never formally enacted in law) has helped to choke the NGOs working on search and rescue in the Mediterranean Sea all but out of existence. The "Salvini Law", enacted in November 2018, has targeted the reception system, reducing the number of centres open to asylum seekers, and has seen the cancellation of "humanitarian protection" as a justification for staying in Italy. A further "Salvini Law", aimed at wiping out search and rescue, is currently under discussion. However, this backdrop has not weakened the resolve of Mediterranean Hope (www.mediterraneanhope.com), the Programme of Federazione delle Chiese Evangeliche in Italia working on behalf of refugees and migrants. (The Methodist Church in Italy (OPCEMI) plays a significant role within the Federation generally and specifically in the Programme through our Mission Partner, Fiona Kendall.)

The humanitarian corridors project is very much alive. The original protocol with the Italian government was renewed for a further two years in November 2017 (and a second protocol is anticipated towards the end of this year). Mediterranean Hope are continuing to bring vulnerable migrants directly from Lebanon to Italy. The numbers involved are, relatively speaking, small, as are the security risks, given that intended participants are all screened well in advance of arrival. The cost to the government is nil, since participants are fully supported by faith-based communities on arrival.

A call to action has been issued by Mediterranean Hope to churches across Europe to support migrants in most urgent need, namely, those rescued at sea but shunned by member states, and those who might come to Europe via humanitarian corridors from Libya.

Several Methodist churches are already housing and supporting people under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme as community sponsors and many more churches support asylum seekers, migrants and refugees in other ways. It is hoped that all churches will commit to work to have a culture in our churches that is welcoming, and to continue pressing the government to recognise its international and humanitarian obligations.

In the light of this, the Conference:

- (i) Stands in solidarity with and sends a message of support to The Methodist Church in Italy (OPCEMI), Federazione delle Chiese Evangeliche in Italia and Mediterranean Hope as they continue to live out our calling to welcome the stranger, in the midst of strong political opposition;
- (ii) Directs that a letter be sent by the President and Vice-President of the Conference to the Home Secretary welcoming the recent announcement of a successor for the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme post 2020 but requesting him to (1) agree a stable disembarkation mechanism for migrants who are rescued in the Mediterranean Sea and require to be relocated to other European countries from Italy and agree an additional quota for relocation to the UK and (2) join a coalition of willing European governments permitting humanitarian corridors to be opened to bring migrants safely to Europe directly from Libya;
- (iii) Encourages churches and circuits to consider how they might offer practical support and accommodation to migrants coming to the UK via VPRS and/or additional arrangements.

Proposed: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

Seconded: The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Mr Keith Norman | 5. Mrs Katrin Hackett |
| 2. The Revd Janet C Aspey | 6. Deacon Debbie Marsh |
| 3. Dr Stephen Leah | 7. The Revd Ann L Lett |
| 4. Mrs Heather Lovelady | 8. The Revd Faith M Nyota |

Budgetary implications

No connexional budget implications.

Notice of Motion 2019/211: The Work of the EDI Committee

The Conference recognises the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion within the life of the Methodist Church, and wishes to thank the members of the EDI Committee for their hard work in this area over the years.

The Conference of 2011 agreed to the establishment of an interim EDI architecture with the formation of stakeholder forums covering the equality strands of gender, race, age, sexual orientation, wealth and access, disability and impairment and an EDI reference group. Membership of these fora were carefully populated on the basis of specific expertise and experience. EDI Committee in its current form was established in 2015, working closely with the Connexional EDI Adviser. The EDI Toolkit is a significant downloadable resource with a module on Transgender to be added soon.

There has been an increasing awareness of the importance of the issues surrounding equality, diversity and inclusion, and a corresponding growth of work in this area. The Conference recognises the value of the work EDI Committee and that EDI must be central to life and health of the church.

The Conference believes the issues of EDI would be better addressed by the whole church if the committee reported directly to the Conference, rather than, as at present, to the Methodist Council. This would enable issues of EDI to be more embedded within the life of the whole church, and therefore encourage members of our church to recognise that combatting incidents of hate and discrimination, and being aware of our own bias, is something that we all need to do.

The Conference therefore directs:

- That the EDI Committee becomes a committee of the Conference
- That the task group set up by the Council (described in paragraph 4.1 on page 222 of the Conference Agenda) works closely with the EDI Committee to identify how more connexional resources can be provided for the work of EDI within the life of the church and brings a report to the Conference 2020 with proposals.

Proposed: The Revd Stephen J Poxon

Seconded: Ms Irene McKay

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Mark Rowland
2. The Revd Delyth A Liddell
3. The Revd Anne Ellis
4. Ms Georgina Ellis
5. Ms Vanessa Frimpong
6. The Revd Dr Michael J A Long
7. Mr Matthew Collins
8. Deacon Joy M Everingham

Budgetary implications

No significant connexional budget implications for 2019/20. However, potentially significant implications for future year.

Notice of Motion 2019/212: Voting regarding Marriage and Relationships

The Conference directs that the voting on resolutions 10/7, 10/8 and 10/9 be taken by ballot.

Proposed: The Revd P Kofi Amissah

Seconded: Mr Anthony Boateng

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Georgina Ellis
2. Ms Akosuah Akowuah-Siaw
3. Ms Vanessa Primpong
4. Miss Katherine Oduro
5. Miss Georgina Graham
6. The Revd Elizabeth O Osei
7. The Revd Leslie Jones
8. The Revd Stephen J Radford

Notice of Motion 2019/213: Other Churches and Marriage and Relationships

The Conference, recognising the challenges presented by 'God in Love unites us' to some of those who serve as Ministers of other Conferences and Churches in our Connexion,

- a. directs that the Global Relationships Committee engage in conversation with those partner churches who have permitted ministers to serve as recognized and regarded as being in Full Connexion with the Conference about the expectations on ministers and the provisions made for ministers to act only within their conscience contained in the report;
- b. makes clear that reasons of conscience permit a minister of another Conference or Church to decline to act in a way that means that she or he can no longer be in good standing with her or his own church.

Proposed: The Revd P Kofi Amissah

Seconded: Mr Anthony Boateng

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Georgina Ellis
2. Ms Akosuah Akowuah-Siaw
3. Ms Vanessa Primpong
4. Miss Katherine Oduro
5. Miss Georgina Graham
6. The Revd Elizabeth O Osei
7. The Revd Leslie Jones
8. The Revd Stephen J Radford