

REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

09:15 Opening Prayers

09:30 Administration

Agenda Item 21: Connexional Central Services Budget for three years commencing with 2019/2020 (Agenda pages 237-248)

Memorial M8: District Assessment
Memorial M9: Financial Circumstances

Agenda Item 25: The theology and ecclesiology underpinning the diaconate and the Methodist Diaconal Order (Agenda pages 259-299, Order Paper pages 18-19)
Resolutions 25/1, 25/2, 25/3 (page 295), 25/4 (as amended on the Order Paper page 18), 25/5 (as amended on the Order Paper page 19), 25/6, 25/7, 25/8, 25/9, 25/10 (page 296), 25/11 (Order Paper page 19)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Agenda Item 17: Connexional Allowances Committee** (Agenda pages 166-183)
Resolutions 17/1 (page 182), 17/2, 17/3, 17/4 (page 183)
Notice of Motion 2019/101: Preaching fees for supernumerary deacons

Memorial M1: Reimbursement for stipends of ministers on long term sick leave
Memorial M2: Amendment of SO 365
Memorial M10: Funding a non-separated Chair
Memorial M11: Funding a non-separated Chair

Agenda Item 41: Appreciations (Agenda pages 376-377)
Resolution 41/1 (page 376)

Agenda Item 20: Methodist Council, part 2 (Agenda pages 199-236)

Section I: Model Trust 14(2A) Use of Church Buildings by other Christian Denominations (pages 205-208, Order Paper pages 31-32)
Resolutions 20/6, 20/7 (page 208)

Section J: One Mission Forum (pages 208-209, Order Paper page 15)
Resolutions 20/8, 20/9, 20/10 (page 209)

Section K: Ministries Committee (pages 209-218, Order Paper pages 15-16)
Resolutions 20/11, 20/12, 20/13 (as amended on the Order Paper page 16), 20/14 (page 218)
Resolution 20/15 is withdrawn.

Memorial M18: Ministerial workload
Memorial M19: Chinese ministry

Memorial M20: Chinese ministry

Memorial M22: Amendment to SO 731

Memorial M23: Obituaries

Memorial M24: Process of submitting portfolios for worship leading and preaching
Notice of Motion 2019/106: Amended reply to Memorial M24

Memorial M25: Development of worship leaders and preachers

12:45 **Agenda Item 11: Action for Children** (Agenda pages 125-130)
Resolutions 11/1 (page 129), 11/2 (page 130)

13:00 Lunch

14:15 **Agenda Item 16: Developments in Reaffirming *Our Calling*** (Agenda pages 155-165)
Resolution 16/1 (page 165)

14:50 Workshops

16:15 Tea Break

16:45 Notice of Motion 2019/212: Voting on Marriage and Relationships

Agenda Item 20: Methodist Council, part 2 (Agenda pages 199-236)

Section L: Memorials Committee (pages 218-219)
Resolution 20/16 (page 219)

Section M: The Unfinished Agenda (pages 219-222)
Resolutions 20/17, 20/18 (page 222)
Notice of Motion 2019/206: Review of procedures following incidents of hate or unlawful discrimination
Notice of Motion 2019/207: EDI concerns in stationing
Notice of Motion 2019/211: The work of the EDI Committee

Section S: Net Zero Emissions (pages 235-236)
Resolutions 20/26, 20/27 (pages 236)
Memorial M54: Eco Church
Memorial M55: Declaration of Climate Emergency
Notice of Motion 2019/104: Amended reply to Memorial M55
Notice of Motion 2019/204: Reducing the Use of Plastic

Section T: Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee (Order Paper page 16)
Resolution 20/28 (Order Paper page 16)

Closed Session

Reconvening of the Presbyteral Session (Order Paper page 41)
Resolutions P/1, P/2 (Order Paper page 41)

Evening prayers

18:30 Adjourn

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. The Conference Business Committee has been asked to clarify that ordinands may speak in Conference debates with the permission of the President or Vice-President (as appropriate, depending on who is presiding at that session). When called to the tribune, ordinands should therefore ask the President or Vice-President for permission to address the Conference.
2. Members of the Conference who have come to the front of the hall to speak in a debate are asked to return to their seats when a vote is being counted (to ensure that their vote is counted).
3. This afternoon's workshops will take place as follows:
Workshop 1: Hampton (Towards a Church shaped to reaffirm *Our Calling*)
Workshop 2: Henley (Towards a Church shaped to reaffirm *Our Calling*)
Workshop 3: York (Towards a Church of Authentic Evangelism)
Workshop 4: Terrace (Towards a Church of Authentic Evangelism)

The workshop to which members of the Conference have been allocated is indicated on their badges.

SECOND REPORT OF THE LAW AND POLITY CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Notice of Motion 2019/105: Draft reply to Memorial M12

The Law and Polity Conference Sub-Committee is of the view that the statements of law in paragraphs 3 and 4 in the proposed substitute reply are not accurate. The memorial and notice of motion does however, raise policy questions as to the extent of the duties which it should be possible to appoint a temporary deputy chair to perform. The Sub-Committee invites the Conference to refer the memorial to the Methodist Council for consideration, in consultation, with the Law and Polity Committee.

If the Conference declines Notice of Motion 2019/105, the following resolution will be moved on behalf of the Law and Polity Conference Sub-Committee.

LP/2. The Conference resolves that the last sentence of the draft reply to memorial 12 is deleted and that the memorial is referred to the Methodist Council to consider, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee the policy issues raised and to report the Conference in 2020.

SECOND REPORT OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE

The Faith and Order Committee's response to the Resolutions of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group 2019

1. Under Standing Order 330(10) the Faith and Order Committee has an obligation to scrutinise all matters directly concerning the faith or order of the Church presented to the Conference. It has not yet had an opportunity to discuss the content of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, but notes that the report is not intended to be a draft Statement of the Conference, nor is the Conference being asked to adopt its contents. The Committee will therefore undertake the scrutiny work before the 2020 Conference.

2. The Committee has given attention to the Resolutions relating to that report to identify whether there are any matters concerning the faith and order of the Church which need to be brought to the attention of the 2019 Conference. The Committee has identified three such matters and proposes amendments to the relevant Resolutions so that the Conference has a means of addressing the questions raised if it so wishes.

3. The Provision of Liturgical Resources

3.1. The Committee notes that Resolution 10/4 directs the Methodist Council to take primary responsibility for producing resources for the celebration of civil partnerships, but that the resources referred to in paragraph 5.4.1 of the report are liturgical resources. The production of liturgical resources would usually be the responsibility of the Faith and Order Committee and it appoints a Liturgy and Worship Sub-Committee under SO330(2) to assist it in this task.

3.2. If the Resolutions of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group are adopted by the 2020 Conference then it will be possible for two people of the same sex to marry in a Methodist place of worship which is registered for that purpose. Some consideration will need to be given as to whether an additional marriage service will be needed for the marriage of two people of the same sex, and whether any amendments will need to be made to the *Methodist Worship Book*.

3.3. The amendments to Resolution 10/4 broaden the Resolution to ensure that the Faith and Order Committee considers what liturgical resources might be needed in the light of the report and prepares any draft liturgies and amendments to the Methodist Worship Book so that they are ready for consideration at the 2020 Conference if required.

3.4. The Faith and Order Committee therefore recommends that Resolution 10/4 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group is amended as follows:

10/4. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to review the provision of liturgical resources in the light of this report, including the question of whether there should be one marriage service or two in the *Methodist Worship Book*, the preparation of a draft service of celebration for civil partnerships, and the preparation of any other draft liturgical resources that may be required. The Conference further directs the Faith and Order Committee to report to the 2020 Conference, on the understanding that the bringing of any draft liturgies and proposed amendments to the *Methodist Worship Book* for approval by the Conference would depend upon the results of consultation on the resolutions of the 2019 Conference and any resolutions of the 2020 Conference that result from it.

4. Liturgical Resources for the Ending of a Marriage

4.1. Resolution 10/5 asks the Conference to adopt the recommendation that liturgical texts be produced and commended for use at the ending of a marriage, describing such texts as a “service” (paragraph 3.2.6). The Faith and Order Committee would wish to affirm that support for those experiencing the breakdown of a relationship includes both pastoral and prayerful support and that it may sometimes be appropriate for there to be a more formal liturgical act. It does, however, have significant theological and pastoral concerns as the production of official resources assumes a number of things.

4.2. Some of the concerns are as follows:

- a. Very different circumstances lead to divorce. Official liturgical resources cannot begin to give space for the complexity and variety of pastoral situations that arise at the breakdown of a relationship, and people may need different kinds of liturgies at different times.
- b. The Church has a pastoral responsibility to all parties involved, including any children. All parties may have very different timescales in adjusting to a new situation and are likely to be in different places emotionally, psychologically and spiritually. It cannot be assumed that the two people most directly involved are at the same point in their journey of 'moving on'.
- c. Official resources embody and express the Church's theological understanding. Whilst the Methodist Church has rich theological resources to draw on in supporting people at the ending of a relationship, the theological implications of such a liturgy are varied including, for example, questions about forgiveness especially in situations of domestic violence and abuse.
- d. There are questions about how the Church responds if one person does not wish to take part in such a liturgical action, including what the liturgical action may then symbolise to both parties, others involved and the wider community; whether the Church may potentially collude in being seen to 'side' with either party; and the potential for abuse and manipulation if one party is keen to 'move on' and there are complex power dynamics involved.
- e. Methodist worship is varied and flexible, and all ministers are trained and equipped for leading worship and for offering pastoral care. Ministers can work with those involved to determine what kind of service might be appropriate, and they can draw on a variety of traditions and resources in order to offer a liturgy that is pastorally focused.

4.3. The Faith and Order Committee therefore recommends that the focus is on making more widely available a range of liturgical resources that might be used at the ending of a relationships to support those who are pastorally and liturgically seeking to care for all affected. It therefore proposes amending resolution 10/5 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group as follows:

10/5. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to produce a list of a range of liturgical resources for use at the ending of a marriage and to make this available via the Methodist Church website.

5. Standing Order 011A Marriage

5.1. The Faith and Order Committee has given attention to the question of whether the proposed amendment to Standing Order 011A makes sufficient theological provision for the contradictory convictions which it intends to hold together. For some the change of wording to "two people" represents a change in understanding. The Committee therefore recommends expanding the suggested revision to SO 011A in order to make it clear that the Methodist Church holds the contradictory convictions within its theology.

5.2. It therefore proposes amending the first paragraph of resolution 10/9 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group as follows:

011A Marriage

(1) "The Methodist Church believes that marriage is a gift of God and that it is God's

~~intention that a marriage should be~~ *is given by God to be a particular channel of God's grace, and that it is in accord with God's purposes when a marriage is a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of ~~one man and one woman~~ two people who freely enter it. Within the Methodist Church this is understood in two ways: one being that those two people can only be a man and a woman; and the other that they can be of the same sex. The Methodist Church affirms both understandings and makes provision in its Standing Orders for them.*

*****RESOLUTIONS**

FO/1. The Conference receives the Report.

FO/2. The Conference directs that Resolution 10/4 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group is amended as follows:

10/4. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to review the provision of liturgical resources in the light of this report, including the question of whether there should be one marriage service or two in the Methodist Worship Book, the preparation of a draft service of celebration for civil partnerships, and the preparation of any other draft liturgical resources that may be required. The Conference further directs the Faith and Order Committee to report to the 2020 Conference, on the understanding that the bringing of any draft liturgies and proposed amendments to the Methodist Worship Book for approval by the Conference would depend upon the results of consultation on the resolutions of the 2019 Conference and any resolutions of the 2020 Conference that result from it.

FO/3. The Conference directs that Resolution 10/5 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group is amended as follows:

10/5. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to produce a list of a range of liturgical resources for use at the ending of a marriage and to make this available via the Methodist Church website.

FO/4. The Conference directs that the first paragraph of Resolution 10/9 of the report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group is amended as follows:

011A Marriage

(1) The Methodist Church believes that marriage is a gift of God and that it is God's intention that a marriage should be ~~is given by God to be a particular channel of God's grace, and that it is in accord with God's purposes when a marriage is a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of one man and one woman~~ two people who freely enter it. Within the Methodist Church this is understood in two ways: one being that those two people can only be a man and a woman; and the other that they can be of the same sex. The Methodist Church affirms both understandings and makes provision in its Standing Orders for them.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION

The Conference, in its Presbyteral Session, is asked to add the name of the Revd Ian L Coverdale to the list of those presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary. The Conference is also asked to add the name of the Revd William H Anderson to the list of those presbyters who are recommended to return to the active work.

P/1. The Conference recommends to the Representative Session that the Revd Ian L Coverdale be given permission to become supernumerary.

P/2. The Conference receives an additional report that the Revd William H Anderson is recommended to return to the active work.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 40: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (Pages 366-375)

Page 366, Resolution 40/1

Replace (vii) with:

(vii) The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice, the Connexional Secretary (non-voting): the Revds Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Ruth M Gee, Mrs Louise Wilkins, Mr Doug Swanney.

Other members of the senior management group of the Connexional Team may attend as the business of the Committee shall require. Staff so invited to attend shall have the right to speak but not vote.

Appointed by the Conference as Assistant Secretary of the Conference for the year 2019/2020.

Page 366, Resolution 40/3

Advocates: *add* The Revd Jennifer M Dyer

Circuit Superintendent, former solicitor, member of Law and Polity Committee, Conference Journal Secretary.

Add:

The Revds Mark H Wakelin, Kenneth G Howcroft, Steven J Wild, Dr Roger L Walton, Loraine N Mellor, Michaela A Youngson

Mr Michael P King, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Ms Gillian M Dascombe, Dr B Jill Barber, Ms Rachel J Lampard, Mrs E Jill Baker, Mr Balachandren M Gnanapragasam

Past Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

Page 369, Resolution 40/6

For the Revd Gary Hall read the Revd Dr Gary P Hall

Page 369, Resolution 40/7

The Secretary of the Conference: *for* The Revd Canon Gareth J Powell *read* The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler

For the Revd Gary P Hall read the Revd Dr Gary P Hall

Add The Revd Dr Andrew Stobart

Director of Research at Wesley House, Cambridge. Previously circuit minister in Darlington, commissioning editor of the Holiness Journal. Current research interest in the development of a genuinely global Wesleyan theology.

Page 369, Resolution 40/8

Replace (ii) with:

(ii) The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revds Dr Jonathan R Hustler and Ruth M Gee

Page 370, Resolution 40/11

For (iA) The Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler

Read (iA) The Assistant Secretary of the Conference: The Revd Ruth M Gee

Delete a vacancy (Newcastle)
Add Mr Andrew Lowe

Nominated to the Council by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne District.

(viA) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee: *delete* the Revd Dr Andrew D Wood
Add the Revd Gillian M Newton

Page 372, Resolution 40/15

Delete The Revd Dr Andrew D Wood (Chair)
Add The Revd Gillian M Newton (Chair)

Gillian Newton is Chair of the Sheffield District. She has been chair of the Chairs' Meeting and chair of the Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee.

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

40/15A. The Conference delegates the appointment of the Deputy Chair of the Ministries Committee to the Methodist Council.

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

40/18. The Conference delegates the appointment of the Methodist Diaconal Order Leadership Group, as required by SO 755, to the Methodist Council.

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

40/19. The Conference appoints the lay persons nominated by the Synod to the General Committee of the Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland and notes the membership of the Committee as otherwise provided for in Standing Order 476(1)(i), (ii) and (iii) as follows:

- (i) The Revds S Mark Slaney, Dr Helen Jenkins, Allan Y Loudon and Nicholas B Baker – Official Trustees.
- (ii) Miss Maureen G Anderson, Mr David A Easson, Dr Alan J Hayes and Mr Edward A L Wallace – Non Official Trustees.
- (iii) The Superintendent Ministers of every Circuit in the District (not otherwise appointed): the Revds Andrew M Baker, John T Beadle, Colin H J Plenderleith and Edward J Sykes.
- (iv) Mr Phillip Haggis - District Lay Property Secretary, Mrs Margaret Brown, Mrs Jennifer H Easson, Mr Peter A Mills - Lay persons nominated by Scotland Synod.

AGENDA ITEM 43: PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK (Pages 381-383)

1. **Recommended to return to the active work**
Add William H Anderson

 3. **Presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary**
Add Ian L Coverdale (29)
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