

REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

14:10 The Assistant Secretary welcomes the Conference.

14:15 Hymn: *And are we yet alive?*

Reading: Luke 12:22-31

Prayer: The President of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Hymn: *In Christ alone*

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of officers of the Conference (Agenda pages 37-38, Order Paper page 4) Resolution 3/3. (Agenda page 38)

Agenda Item 22: Methodist Council, part 2, Section P (Agenda page 204) Resolution 22/21. (Agenda page 204)

Membership of the Conference: Agenda pages 491-498 and changes listed on the Order Paper page 3

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Revd Philip J Jackson (Chief Scrutineer)
Mrs Wendy Barwise
Mr Matthew Collins
Mrs Laura Gallery
Mrs Katrin Hackett
The Revd Andrew J L Hollins
The Revd Christopher A Jackson
The Revd Ann L Lett
Mr Steve Rogers
Mr Richard Walsh
Mr Alan J Window

Agenda Item 61: Additional Report from the Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (Order Paper pages 12-17)
Resolutions LP/2, LP/3, LP/4, LP/5, LP/6, LP/7, LP/8, LP/10, LP/11, LP/12, LP/13, LP/14 (Order Paper pages 12-17)

15:00 The Vote for the President of the Conference – Resolution 1/1 (Agenda page 18)

The Vote for the Vice-President of the Conference – Resolution 1/2 (Agenda page 18)

Hymn: *Sing of the Lord's Goodness*

Induction of the President

Hymn: *O thou who camest from above*

The President's Address

15:45 Break

16:15 Induction of the Vice-President

Hymn: *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*

The Vice-President's Address

The Loyal Address

Welcome to ecumenical associate members and guests

Welcome to overseas representatives and associate members

Agenda Item 21: First report of the Conference Business Committee (Agenda pages 163-168) Resolution 21/1 (Agenda page 168)

Agenda Item 57: Second report of the Conference Business Committee (Agenda pages 561-566) Resolution 57/1 (Agenda page 566)

Third Report of the Conference Business Committee (Order Paper pages 3-4)
Resolution B/1 (Order Paper page 4)

Agenda Item 60: Report to the Representative Session from the Conference Diaconal Committee (Order Paper pages 8-11)
Resolutions 60/1, 60/3 (Order Paper pages 11-12)

Agenda Item 3: Appointment of officers of the Conference (Agenda pages 37-38)
Resolutions 3/1, 3/2 (Agenda page 37)

Agenda Item 62: Reception into Full Connexion (Order Paper pages 18-20)
Resolutions 62/1, 62/2 (Order Paper pages 19-20)

17:30 Break

18:00 The Reception into Full Connexion (see separate Order Paper)

CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE (Agenda pages 491-498)

Bristol

For to be confirmed *read* The Revd Carol A Chaplin

Northampton

Mr Bobby Peach *vice* Miss Margaret Stones

Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire

For Mrs Katharine Crew *read* Ms Katharine Crew

Scotland

The Revd Stephanie Njeru *vice* The Revd Nicholas B Baker

London

The Revd Steven R M Cooper *vice* The Revd Geoffrey F J Farrar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hours of session from Monday 29 June: 09:30 – 11:00; 11:30 – 12:30

THIRD REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Voting in the Conference

1. The Conference Business Committee recommends to the Conference that all voting will take place either through the means of electronic 'raised hands' or by the use of the poll function in Zoom. It will be made clear to the Conference how voting is to be undertaken whenever a vote is taken. The Chief Scrutineer and the Chair of the Business Committee (as returning officer) will oversee all voting, and ensure that proper processes are followed. Where a standing vote is required, the Conference will be asked to use the raise hands function, and also to mark the significance of the vote by standing up if they are able to do so.

Elections

2. The Business Committee has considered how best to conduct the elections for the President and Vice-President of 2021/2022, Conference-elected members of the Conference, and members of the Business Committee. It has determined to follow a process as close as possible to that which would be followed if the Conference was meeting in the usual way.
3. Nomination forms were circulated electronically to all voting members of the Conference, and role descriptions for the offices of President and Vice-President of the Conference were placed on the website to assist in the prayerful discernment of individuals eligible for such designation.
4. It is proposed that all signatories to nominations send an email confirming their wish to nominate a particular candidate in lieu of a physical signature. The details of the email addresses to which this should be sent are included on the relevant nomination form.
5. Ballot papers will be circulated on Monday evening, with the elections taking place during the day on Tuesday. Voting members of the Conference should send their completed

ballot paper to the designated email addresses which will be indicated on the ballot paper.

6. When ballot papers are received, all identifying information will be removed before the vote is read and the Committee therefore assures the Conference that all voting will be recorded anonymously (as they would be if we were using ballot boxes).
7. The single transferable vote system will then be used in the usual way.

Notices of Motion

8. Subject to the Conference adopting Resolution LP/10, the Business Committee requests that all notices of motion are submitted using the standard form (which has been sent to members of the Conference) by the deadline of 1 pm on Sunday 28 June.
9. Members of the Conference who wish to 'sign' a notice of motion should confirm this by sending an email to conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk

Advance indication of a request to be called to speak

10. The Committee encourages members of the Conference to indicate in advance where there are items of business on which they wish to speak. This will enable the Committee to advise the President and Vice-President with regard to a range of points and a diversity of representation (see resolution LP/8). A form is available for download and has also been sent to representatives.

*****RESOLUTION**

B/1. The Conference receives the Report.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM 2: METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 1 SECTION C: AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 27-33)

**Page 33,
SO 213A(5)**

add

(ivA) to ensure that appropriate assurances and processes for risk management are in operation;

AGENDA ITEM 3: APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE (Pages 37-38)

Page 38, Resolution 3/3.

Reasoned statement for Joanne Anderton, line 2
For Charity Law Society read Charity Law Association

AGENDA ITEM 16: SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE (Pages 139-144)

Page 144, Safeguarding Panels

Last row in table

For Resigned from role read Total

AGENDA ITEM 29: JOINT COVENANT ADVOCACY AND MONITORING GROUP (Pages 277-279)

Page 279, Resolution 29/4

Amend to read:

29/4. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to work with the Faith and Order Commission and others to explore our understanding of organic unity and full visible unity.

*****NEW RESOLUTION**

29/5. The Conference appoints the Revd Richard J Teal as Co-Chair of the Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group

Richard Teal is to be President of the Conference for the year 2020/2021, and has wide experience of working ecumenically, particularly in pioneering a county-wide ecumenical project while Chair of the Cumbria District.

AGENDA ITEM 30: NOMINATIONS FOR THE WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL (Pages 280-282)

The World Methodist Conference meeting will now take place in 2022.

The resolutions should be amended to read:

*****RESOLUTIONS**

30/2. The Conference appoints those officers named in paragraph 12 as representatives to the World Methodist Council for the 2022-2027 quinquennium.

30/3. The Conference agrees that funding be made available for one person from each District to attend the World Methodist Conference in 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 32: FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT (Pages 289-299)

Page 294, Section 6

Delete section 6

Page 299, Resolutions

Delete Resolution 32/2

AGENDA ITEM 34: CHANGING PATTERNS OF MINISTRY (Pages 341-378)

*****RESOLUTIONS**

The Conference is asked to give permission for resolutions 34/2, 34/5, 34/6, 34/7, 34/8, 34/9 and 34/10 not to be put to the 2020 Conference.

Resolutions 34/11 and 34/12 are being brought in the following amended form:

34/11. The Conference directs the Stationing Committee to review the aspects of the stationing matching process described in paragraph 5.2.5 and report to the 2021 Conference.

34/12. The Conference directs the Stationing and Ministries Committees to review the candidating, training and stationing processes in order to:

- a. explore how it can be ensured that there is a clear process for enabling some presbyters to serve in local, pioneer and specific cultural/language appointments;

- b. explore how this possibility could be clearly communicated to those involved in the candidating, training and stationing matching processes; and
- c. prepare provisional guidance for those considering such appointments; and report to the 2021 Conference.

AGENDA ITEM 36: METHODIST MINISTERS' PENSION SCHEME (Pages 403-408)

Page 405, Paragraphs 9 and 10

8. ~~Mr Ronald Calver~~, Mr Graham Danbury and Mr John Wyatt are due to retire by rotation on 31 August 2020.
9. The Conference is requested to approve the re-appointments of ~~Mr Ronald Calver~~, Mr Graham Danbury and Mr John Wyatt from 1 September 2020.

Page 408

*****AMENDED RESOLUTION**

- 36/7. The Conference reappoints Mr Graham Danbury and Mr John Wyatt as Employer-Nominated Directors of the Methodist Ministers' Pension Trust Ltd from 1 September 2020.**

AGENDA ITEM 45: MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES' AND PROBATIONERS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (Pages 459-464)

Paragraph 1.5, Changes in expected date of Reception into Full Connexion

Add Kenneth Peter Kingston from 2020 to 2021

Add Karen Sian Williams from 2022 to 2023

Paragraph 1.6, Deferment or suspension under SO 726

(b) *For no case read* Penelope Thorne

Paragraph 1.7, Withdrawals under SO 727

(c) Probationers

Delete Karen Sian Williams

Pages 461-463, Preachers recommended for continuance on trial

Add * Kenneth Peter Kingston 2021

Add * Sydney-Samuel Ekundayo Lake 2021

Add * Penelope Thorne 2024

Add * Karen Sian Williams 2023

Pages 463-464, Preachers on trial presented to the Conference for reception into Full Connexion in 2020

Delete Kenneth Peter Kingston

AGENDA ITEM 46: PRESBYTERAL TRANSFERS AND REINSTATEMENTS (Pages 465-467)

Page 466, Paragraph 1.10

Add Matthew Allen Laferty (United Methodist Church East Ohio Conference)

AGENDA ITEM 48: COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (Pages 471-480)

Page 473, Resolution 48/5

Delete The Revd Prof Teddy Kalongo, Mr Rob Cooper

Page 475-476, Resolution 48/11

District Representatives

For The Revd David W Hookins read The Revd Ruth G S Fry

For a vacancy (Cymru) read Ms Bet Holmes

For a vacancy (Cumbria) read Mr Peter Gregson

For a vacancy (Lancashire) read Mr Carl Fairclough

Representatives of concerns of equality, diversity and inclusion

For a vacancy read Mr Bala Gnanapragasam

Carl Fairclough	Nominated to the Council by the Lancashire District.
Ruth Fry	Nominated to the Council by the Southampton District.
Bala Gnanapragasam	Nominated to the Council by the EDI Committee.
Peter Gregson	Nominated to the Council by the Cumbria District.
Bet Holmes	Nominated to the Council by Synod Cymru.

AGENDA ITEM 51: PRESBYTERS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK (Pages 486-487)

3. Presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary

Add	Philip J Berry	(40)
Add	Christine E Kennell	(28)
Add	Clifford J Meharry	(34)
Add	Stephen Oliver	(16)
Add	Gary S Ridley	(29)
Add	Susan Rowe	(20)
Add	Maurice E Stafford	(40)
Add	Elizabeth D Trinder	(13)

AGENDA ITEM 52: PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES (Pages 488-490)

Page 488, Presbyters of other autonomous Methodist Conferences

Add	Quophie Anochie Ababio	34/14	Methodist Church Ghana
For	Paulo B Da Silva	read	Paulo Bessa Da Silva
Delete	Richard M Kyaira	14/1	Methodist Church Kenya
Add	Matthew A Laferty	ASA	United Methodist Church East Ohio Conference
Add	Adrian T Roux	26/2	Methodist Church of Southern Africa
Delete	Cleopas Sibanda	5/1	Methodist Church Zimbabwe

Page 489, Presbyters of other communions applying to be recognised and regarded

Delete Mark R Mander

Add Peggy M Kabonde 7/20

**AGENDA ITEM 53, METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 3
ADDITION TO SECTION T: 3GENERATE 2020 (Pages 542-543)**

*****RESOLUTIONS**

53/13.The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 250 to the close of the Conference of 2021 and makes the following directions:

- (i) the Youth President designated at the last Assembly shall take office from the 1st September 2020 and shall fulfil the role set out in clause (8) of that Standing Order;
- (ii) the Youth President's Advisory Group shall continue to be constituted in accordance with and fulfil the responsibilities laid down in clause (9);
- (iii) the elections of the Youth President-designate and the representatives to the Conference of 2021 and the nomination of the representatives to the Methodist Council for the connexional year from 1 September 2021 which would have been conducted under clauses (10) to (12) shall be conducted electronically in accordance with the following procedure:
 - (a) the persons entitled to vote shall be those who would have been eligible to be members of the Assembly under clauses (3) and (4) and who have fulfilled any requirements agreed under (b) below for registering in advance their intention to vote, and those persons shall constitute the Assembly for the connexional year 2020-2021 for the purposes of clause 14(2)(xA) of the Deed of Union;
 - (b) the procedures under which the elections are to be held shall be those agreed and overseen by a group consisting of: the Youth President's Advisory Group, together with those who were elected by the last Assembly as ecumenical representatives, British Youth Council representatives, and representatives for the World Methodist Council/Global Relationships and for Social Justice.
- (iv) the persons eligible for election or nomination, as the case may be, under (iii) above shall be those who fulfil the requirements for eligibility under clauses (10) (other than (i)), (11) and (12) respectively;
- (v) the Youth President may exercise the powers to appoint substitutes for representatives or nominees as provided for in clauses (11) and (12).

53/14.The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 102(5) to the close of the Conference of 2021 and directs that the Youth President and the persons elected for that purpose in accordance with the procedures laid down by resolution 1 shall be the representatives to that Conference.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

60. REPORT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY THE CONFERENCE DIACONAL COMMITTEE

The Conference Diaconal Committee ("the Committee") met via video conference on 9 June 2020. The President took the Chair.

1. Deacons who have died

The Committee approved the obituaries of Ruth Margaret Boudains, Anne Ellenor, June Harrison, Rita Margaret Jakeman, Joyce Rawkins, Patricia Sanders, Eileen Wright.

2. Candidates

2.1 The Committee recommended, with the required majority, acceptance by the Representative Session of the following candidates to proceed immediately into pre-ordination training:

Natalie Mary Clark
Helen Gardner

Suzanne Marie Sale
Vicky Ann Welsh

- 2.2 The Committee recommended, with the required majority, acceptance by the Representative Session of the following candidates to proceed to training upon the fulfilment of certain conditions:
No case
- 2.3 The Committee noted the following deacons recommended by the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee for training for presbyteral ministry upon transfer from diaconal ministry:
No case
- 2.4 The Committee noted the following accepted diaconal candidates recommended by the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee for training for presbyteral ministry:
No case
- 3. Transfer**
The Committee adopted the recommendation by a 75% majority or more of the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee acting as Transfer Committee that the following applicants should be transferred to the jurisdiction of this Conference, as a probationer:
No case
- 4. Training and probation**
The Committee adopted the following special reports of the Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee:
- 4.1 Candidates accepted at previous Conferences and given permission to delay entry into training:
No case
- 4.2 Candidates accepted at this Conference and to be given permission to delay entry into training:
No case
- 4.3 Candidates accepted at this Conference and to be given permission to transfer to another Conference:
No case
- 4.4 Candidates conditionally accepted at previous Conferences:
- (a) Those judged to have fulfilled the condition and therefore to be accepted as candidates
No case
 - (b) Those judged to have failed to fulfil the condition and thereby not to be accepted as candidates
No case
 - (c) Those still to fulfil the condition
No case
- 4.5 Changes in expected date of Reception into Full Connexion:
- (a) To an earlier date
No case

- (b) To a later date
Alison Hyde (from 2022 to 2023)
Robert Austin Stoner (from 2020 to 2022)

4.6 Special cases:
No case

4.7 Deferred entry into probation:
Alison Hyde

4.8 Withdrawals under SO 727:

- (a) Candidates
No case
- (b) Student deacons
Helen Lunn
- (c) Probationers
No case

4.9 Transfer to other Conferences or Churches:
No case

4.10 Reinstatements under SO 761:
No case

4.11 Discipline:
No case

4.12 The Committee noted, pursuant to SO 031, that the following students and probationers had been discontinued:
No case

In the following lists:

* = change from the lists approved by the 2019 Conference

+ = candidates accepted by the 2019 Conference

<i>Surname</i>	<i>First name(s)</i>	<i>Due to be received into Full Connexion</i>
+Amey	Janet Ann	2024
Bennett	Tessa Joanne	2023
+Chipandambiria	Margaret	2024
Gabbattis	Kim Louise	2022
Goddard	Caroline Michelle	2021
Hassall	Shirley Dianne	2021
+Hoe-Crook	Sarah Emily	2023
*Hyde	Allison	2023
Johnson	Katherine Jane	2020
Perrott	Nigel George	2020
+Pitkeathly	Sarah	2023
+Poole	Marie	2024
Rigby	Sarah Jane	2023
Sam	Theresa Effuah	2022
Snowball	Helen	2021

Spinks	Rebekah Joy	2020
Stoner	Robert Austin	2022
Uwimana	Marcianne	2022
Wheadon	Sally Anne	2020

5. Ordinands

The Committee recommended to the Representative Session of the Conference that the following are fit to be received into Full Connexion with the Conference as deacons and to be received into full membership of the Methodist Diaconal Order, and, if not already ordained, to be ordained:

Katherine Jane Johnson
 Nigel George Perrott
 Rebekah-Joy Spinks
 Sally Anne Wheadon

6. Permission to serve abroad

Marlene A Skuce

7. Permission to reside abroad

Harriet P Bacon
 Gordon H Wallace

8. Deacons becoming supernumerary

(a) The Committee recommended to the Representative Session that the following deacons be permitted to become supernumerary:

* Filippus den Uil
 Rona Eastman
 Lynda J Gallimore

(b) Permissions granted during the year:

During the year, the President permitted the following deacons to become supernumerary on health grounds:

No case

*All applications are made under Standing Order 790(1), except those marked * who are applying on grounds of ill health under Standing Order 790(2).*

See the Presbyters and Deacons Becoming Supernumerary or Returning to the Active Work section of the Agenda for the resolution to be presented to the Representative Session.

9. Resignations

The Committee noted that the President had given permission for the following deacons to resign:

No case

10. Annual Inquiry

Circumstances prevented the Annual Inquiry from taking place at the Convocation held virtually in May, and it has therefore been deferred until the autumn.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

60/1. The Conference receives the Report.

- 60/2. The Conference resolves, by a Standing Vote, that it accepts for training, unconditionally or conditionally as the case may be, the candidates for ministry recommended by the Diaconal Committee whose names are recorded in the report of that Committee.
- 60/3. The Conference adopts the report on diaconal students and probationers recommended for continuance in training or on probation as set out in section 4.
- 60/4. The Conference resolves by a Standing Vote that those persons whose names have been read to the Conference and are printed in the Agenda be now received into Full Connexion with the Conference as deacons and into full membership of the Methodist Diaconal Order, and, if not already ordained, to be ordained by prayer and the laying on of hands at a date and place to be determined.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:

61. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (3)

SECTION F

INITIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. Since the last formal meeting of the Law and Polity Committee, the United Kingdom has gone into lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the Methodist Council has decided that the Conference of 2020 cannot take place at Telford, as was resolved by the Conference of 2019, but that an electronic meeting should be held to deal with essential business and other matters. Members of the Law and Polity Committee have been involved in offering advice to the Methodist Council and the Connexional Team on these issues and the advice given on holding electronic meetings is set out in the second report of the Business Committee.
2. In summary, the Committee's view is that:
 - (1) The governing documentation of the Methodist Church requires a physical meeting of the Conference.
 - (2) The governing documentation also requires, however, that certain business should be conducted annually. There is other business which is pressing, even if not legally required to be conducted this year.
 - (3) The Charity Commission has given guidance to bodies in such a position to the effect that it will be understanding of the situation and of any decision to proceed electronically.
 - (4) In order to meet the needs of the Methodist Church, the best course is for the Conference to meet electronically, but since the constitutional status of such a meeting is obscure, the business done should be limited as far as possible to business which is essential.
 - (5) The business of the Conference should be conducted in a way which will demonstrably enable, as far as possible, effective participation and discussion.

To achieve these objectives, the Conference is invited to pass a series of enabling resolutions.

3. In addition, the Committee is aware that since the lockdown restrictions came into force, many Methodist bodies have conducted business electronically in order to ensure that necessary work is undertaken. Decisions have been made which are preliminary to matters which will come before the Conference and which are required by Standing Orders, and business of other kinds has been undertaken. The constitutional basis for at least some of that action is doubtful. It is the Committee's view that it would be appropriate for the Conference, as far as possible, to ratify such action and a resolution is put forward for that purpose.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

LP/1. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference, noting that the Representative Session will be considering a resolution for the rescission of the resolution of the 2019 Conference that the Conference of 2020 should meet in Telford ("the Telford Resolution"), resolves that:

- (1) the Conference in its Presbyteral Session shall conduct its business by electronic means and for that purpose a person is present or attends if he or she is present or attends electronically;**
- (2) information and documents required for the purposes of the Presbyteral Session are taken to be in writing, printed or signed (as the case may require) if a legible electronic version has been provided to the Conference Office in a form which can be made available to the members of the Conference;**
- (3) all resolutions passed and votes taken, including standing votes, shall be taken electronically by a process recommended by the Business Committee and agreed to (with or without amendment) by the Presbyteral Session;**
- (4) if the Conference in its Representative Session resolves to rescind the Telford Resolution and to meet electronically, then for all purposes of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders, so far as the law permits, the business of the Presbyteral Session conducted in accordance with this resolution shall be taken to have been validly conducted.**

LP/2. Pursuant to Standing Order 131(25)(iii) and 131(25A), the Conference resolves to rescind the resolution of the 2019 Conference that the Conference of 2020 in its Presbyteral and Representative Sessions should meet at Telford on the ground that a physical meeting at Telford or elsewhere in Britain has become illegal and resolves instead to meet by electronic means to enable business necessary to the continuing life of the Methodist Church to be transacted.

LP/3. For the purpose of enabling its business to be conducted effectively by electronic means, the Conference further resolves that for the duration of the Conference of 2020, so long as it is meeting electronically:

- (1) the Standing Orders relating to the business of the Conference shall be read and construed as if:**
 - (a) a person is present or attends if he or she is present or attends electronically;**

(b) information and documents required for the purposes of the Representative Session are taken to be in writing, printed or signed (as the case may require) if a legible electronic version has been provided to the Conference Office in a form which can be made available to the members of the Conference;

(2) all resolutions passed and votes taken, including standing votes, shall be taken electronically by a process recommended by the Business Committee (including the appointment of scrutineers) and agreed to (with or without amendment) by the Representative Session.

LP/4. The Conference further resolves that for all purposes of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders, so far as the law permits, the business of the Representative Session conducted in accordance with Resolutions LP/2 and LP/3 shall be taken to have been validly conducted.

LP/5. The Conference, noting that the effect of the legal restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 and regulations made under that Act, together with guidance given to minimise the risks to public health arising from the coronavirus pandemic, has been to make unlawful, or a contravention of the guidance, physical meetings which are provided for by Standing Orders, resolves that where strict compliance with Standing Orders has therefore not been possible, each such Standing Order shall be read and construed as if extended to permit as an alternative the taking of such reasonable steps to achieve the object of the relevant Standing Order as were considered practicable in all the circumstances: Provided that this resolution shall not affect adversely any rights which may have accrued to any person as a result of non-compliance with any Standing Order.

SECTION G CONFERENCE PROCEDURE

4. The Reports of the Business Committee have identified a number of procedural matters in relation to which it recommends the suspension of Standing Orders and the adoption of an alternative procedure. The relevant resolutions, which relate to the rules of debate, notices of motion and voting procedures, are set out below.

***RESOLUTIONS

LP/6. (Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 130 for the duration of the current meeting of the Conference.

LP/7. (Two thirds majority) The Conference further suspends for that period the rules of debate contained in clauses (1A), (3) to (5), (8), (11) to (16), (18) and (22) to (24) of Standing Order 131.

LP/8. The Conference further directs that:

(1) in place of clause (1A) the President shall at his or her discretion call upon members to speak after paying such regard as he or she thinks fit to applications to do so made at such time and in such form as may from time to time be notified in writing to the members of the Conference by the Business Committee (which shall include provision for applications in advance of the debate and for applications during its course). In exercising his or her discretion the President shall seek to ensure that a representative range of opinions is heard on the

business under consideration by the Conference;

- (2) the President, having regard to the constraints upon debate imposed by the exigencies of operating electronically and the importance of securing full and informed participation, but having allowed a reasonable time for debate, may at any time in his or her discretion:
 - (a) put to the Conference a resolution that the business before the Conference be referred to the Conference of 2021, upon terms that the body responsible for the business may decide whether then to present it in the same form or in a different form or to withdraw it altogether, in the light of the debate which has occurred;
 - (b) adjourn the debate to a time to be determined by the Business Committee;
- (3) where the President moves a resolution under paragraph (2)(a), the person moving the substantive resolution relating to the relevant business shall have the opportunity to speak before the vote is taken and the resolution moved by the President requires a two-thirds majority;
- (4) a resolution under paragraph (2)(a) may be put more than once in relation to the same business.
- (5) a member wishing to propose an amendment to a resolution otherwise than by a notice of motion circulated in advance of the debate does not require a seconder but may do so only if the attempt comes in a timely fashion to the attention of the President and the proposal may then be considered only by permission of the President, to be withheld or given, conditionally or unconditionally, at his or her absolute discretion;
- (6) the person moving a resolution, including a resolution proposing an amendment, shall have a right of reply to the debate on the resolution;
- (7) a member wishing to raise a point of order on the ground that the rules of debate or regulations of the Conference or these directions have been violated may do so only if the attempt comes in a timely fashion to the attention of the President. The President may at his or her absolute discretion permit the point to be raised, in which case that shall be done as soon as is reasonably possible. The President shall decide all questions of order.

LP/9. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference, noting that the Representative Session will be considering a resolution for the suspension of Standing Order 132, resolves not to consider in its Presbyteral Session any notice of motion which does not, in the judgment of the President, relate to business which is before the Conference.

LP/10. (Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 132 for the duration of the present meeting of the Conference and directs instead that:

- (1) any two members may upon notice of motion complying with these directions bring before the Conference any lawful resolution to amend a resolution which is before the Conference or which in the judgment of the President after consultation with the Vice-President otherwise relates to business which is before the Conference;

- (2) every notice of motion shall be sent to the Secretary or the Conference Office in electronic form and signed by the following persons:
 - (a) where the proposal is to amend a resolution and those presenting that business to the Conference are prepared to accept it, the proposer and seconder;
 - (b) in any other case, by the proposer and seconder and four other persons;
- (3) subject to paragraph (4) below, a notice of motion in the Representative Session must be received by the Secretary or the Conference Office no later than 1 pm on Sunday 28 June 2020;
- (4) a notice of motion may be received later than the time specified in paragraph (3) above if:
 - (a) it is judged to be on a matter of urgency by the President after consultation with the Vice-President; or
 - (b) it proposes to amend a resolution circulated or materially altered on or after Saturday 27 June 2020 and it is received before 5 pm on the day before the resolution is to be dealt with.

LP/11.(Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 110A, clause (5), for the duration of the present meeting of the Conference and directs instead that nomination papers shall be provided to the Conference Office so that they are received no later than 5.30 pm on Monday 29 June 2020 and shall then be made available as soon as possible for consideration by members of the Conference by such means as are specified on the Order Paper until 6.00 pm on Tuesday 30 June 2020, by which time the members of the Conference must have voted in accordance with the instructions given on the Order Paper. Before the vote is taken, the Secretary of the Conference shall seek from each nominee an assurance of willingness to serve, if elected, and shall report the outcome to the Conference.

SECTION H OTHER MATTERS

5. It is clearly the case that while restrictions on physical meetings continue, there will be further business to be done for which electronic meetings are likely to be required and for which the constitutional basis is doubtful, as explained in Section F above. The Committee therefore offers a further resolution to address that situation.

*****RESOLUTION**

LP/12.The Conference, noting further that the continuing effect of the legal restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 and regulations made under that Act, together with guidance given to minimise the risks to public health arising from the coronavirus pandemic, is at present, and is likely to continue to be, to make unlawful, or a contravention of the guidance, physical meetings which are provided for by Standing Orders for the general conduct of the business of the Methodist Church, resolves that where strict compliance with Standing Orders governing such business is therefore not possible, each such Standing Order shall be read and construed, while such legislation and guidance, or any further such legislation or guidance, comes into or remains in force, as if extended to permit as an alternative the taking of such reasonable steps to achieve the object of the relevant Standing Order as are considered practicable in all the circumstances: Provided that:

- (1) this resolution does not of itself authorise the holding of an electronic meeting of an initial or appeal committee under Section 03, a consultative or pastoral

committee under Section 04, an appeal panel under Standing Order 234 or a discipline or appeal committee under Part 11;

- (2) where a meeting under one of those provisions is required to be held, it may be held electronically with the agreement of the person who is the subject of the discontinuance, competence or safeguarding proceedings or the respondent under Part 11;
- (3) if the person mentioned in paragraph (2) above does not agree to an electronic meeting, the chair of the committee or panel may in his or her discretion decide that an electronic meeting should nevertheless be held if he or she is satisfied that in all the circumstances the meeting would be able to deal fairly with the proceedings.

6. The Conference of 2019 passed provisional resolutions under Standing Order 122 in connection with the report *God in love unites us* and a deferred special resolution under Standing Order 126 amending Model Trust 14(2A) as to the power of managing trustees to permit the use of their premises by members of other Christian churches or congregations. Both SO 122 and SO 126 require consultation and consideration in the Connexion in the year (SO 122) or years (SO 126) following the year of the Conference in which the relevant resolutions were passed. The effect of the pandemic has been to make the consultation and consideration impossible or impractical. The following resolutions are proposed to address the situation.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

LP/13.(Two thirds majority) **The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 122, clause (3) until the close of the Conference of 2021 and directs that:**

- (1) any provisional resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2019 which would under that clause have been submitted to the Synods before this current meeting of the Conference, reported on by them and submitted for confirmation to this meeting of the Conference shall instead, except in any District in which they have already been submitted to and dealt with by the Synod, be submitted to the Synods before the Conference of 2021, and shall in every case be reported on by the Synods and by the Law and Polity Committee to that Conference and submitted to it for confirmation; but that
- (2) any provisional resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2020 or by the Conference of 2021 (subject to any further resolution of that Conference) shall be dealt with as if Standing Order 122, clause (3), were still in force.

LP/14.(Two thirds majority) **The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 126, clause (4), until the opening of the Representative Session of the Conference of 2021 and directs that:**

- (1) any deferred special resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2019 which would under that clause have been considered by the Synods before this current meeting of the Conference shall (if not already so considered) instead be so considered at their first meetings in the next connexional year; but that
- (2) any deferred special resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2020 shall be dealt with as if Standing Order 126, clause (4), were still in force.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM 62: RECEPTION INTO FULL CONNEXION

Contact name and details	The Revd Ruth M Gee Assistant Secretary of the Conference
Subject and aims	To clarify the status of those received into Full Connexion but not yet ordained.

The context in which the Conference meets this year has brought into focus questions about our understanding of the relationship between two ceremonies which normally take place on the same day; reception into Full Connexion and ordination.

The requirement for social distancing and other measures necessitated by the current pandemic have affected many of those who were looking forward to life-changing events, among them those who were expecting to be received into Full Connexion and ordained today. This has been a difficult and painful time for them, made more difficult by the need to work to a very tight timescale to bring the resolutions attached to this report to the Conference.

When we first entered lockdown at the end of March we could not be sure what the situation would be at the end of June. It was clear that we would not be meeting in Telford as we had planned but it was not certain how long the requirement for social distancing and the prohibition on any gathering would last. By mid April it was clear that ordination services would not be possible at the end of June. Reception into Full Connexion could and would take place for those already ordained and we needed to decide whether to proceed with this for those not yet ordained.

Reception into Full Connexion and ordination for those not already ordained are agreed upon by a single resolution of the Conference. This meant that the choice was either to defer both ceremonies until the Conference of 2021 or to receive the probationer presbyters and deacons into Full Connexion today, with the ordination services to take place at times and places to be arranged. The completion of probation is a significant moment for those who have responded to a call to minister as presbyters and deacons, it seemed appropriate to celebrate this through their reception and move to ordain them as soon as possible. Ordinands were given the option to defer their reception into Full Connexion until the Conference of 2021 and one presbyteral ordinand has chosen to do so.

Though it is normal for reception into Full Connexion and ordination to take place on the same day, it is not without precedent for the two to be separated by significant periods of time. However, such a separation for so many brought into sharp focus the need for clarity about the status of those who will no longer be probationers but ordinands in Full Connexion.

Members of the Law and Polity and Faith and Order committees have undertaken a considerable amount of work in order that the following resolutions might be brought to the Conference. In doing so it is recognised that there is more work to be done in order to further clarify our understanding of these distinct ceremonies which are described in the Conference Report on Ordination 1974 (paragraph 21) as “so closely associated that neither is complete without the other”. In the same Conference report we read, “If one ceremony is separated from the other in time, it would seem to be right that the person concerned should refrain from acting in the way proper to the ceremony that has not yet taken place” (paragraph 22). The following resolutions enable the Conference to affirm that those being received have entered into a new relationship with the Conference, whilst recognising that they are yet to be ordained to a ministry which in essence belongs to the Church as a whole. The status of ordinands in Full Connexion is that they

have entered into a new relationship with the Conference but have not yet been ordained “to the presbyterate and diaconate in the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church”¹

If the Conference adopts these resolutions and the subsequent resolution to receive these persons into Full Connexion, then they will enter into a covenant relationship between themselves and the Conference, and the diaconal ordinands will become full members of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

This evening as the Conference affirms their ministry, though we cannot be together physically, in every District across the Connexion, and in countries around the globe people will stand together in a joyous solemnity that is no less real because unseen.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

62/1. In approaching the resolutions later in today’s business to receive into Full Connexion those persons who have been recommended by the Presbyteral Session and the Conference Diaconal Committee respectively for reception into Full Connexion and ordination, the Conference:

- (a) shares our ordinands’ deep sadness that, in the current emergency, we are not able to proceed today to their ordination;**
- (b) affirms and gladly celebrates that their reception into Full Connexion marks the significant moment when they have duly completed all their initial training and probation; they have entered into the covenant relationship between themselves and the Conference; the diaconal ordinands become full members of the Methodist Diaconal Order;**
- (c) eagerly looks forward to the time when their ordination can take place and assures them of our prayers for them and for those who are continuing to support them in their ministry in this time of waiting;**
- (d) recognises that meanwhile directions are needed as to the application of Standing Orders which would otherwise make no provision for their position.**

62/2. The Conference accordingly (i) suspends Standing Orders 728(6)(a) and 728A(5)(a) until the opening of the Conference of 2021 and in their place directs that those who have been accepted into Full Connexion with the Conference as presbyters or deacons shall, unless already ordained, be ordained in services to be held at times and places to be arranged, at each of which the President or a deputy being a presbyter shall preside and (ii) further directs as follows:

- (1)These directions concern the position pending ordination of persons, not already ordained, who will today have been received into Full Connexion by this Conference as presbyters or deacons under Standing Order 728(5)(b) or 728A(4)(b) but cannot be ordained today.**
- (2)Directions concerning references in Standing Orders to presbyters or deacons apply whether the provisions in question refer directly to presbyters or deacons or by way of the word ‘minister’ or ‘ministers’.**

¹ *Methodist Worship Book 298*

(3) All provisions in Standing Orders or in Book VI of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* applying both to presbyters and presbyteral probationers shall also apply to those received into Full Connexion as presbyters and all such provisions applying both to deacons and diaconal probationers shall also apply to those received into Full Connexion as deacons.

(4) As to those received into Full Connexion as presbyters:

- (i) all provisions in Standing Orders relating to invitations, curtailment and extension of invitations, sabbaticals, continuing development, resignation, reinstatement, base of ministry, permission to serve elsewhere or study, supernumeraries, seniority, school, prison and workplace chaplaincies, and complaints and discipline, which apply to presbyters shall also apply to them;
- (ii) all provisions in the following Standing Orders which apply to presbyters shall also apply to them, namely Standing Orders 052(2), 057(3), 210(1)(iv), 212(4), 323, 364(2), 417B, 425(1), 438(1A), 451, 484(1), 502(1)(b) and (g)(i), 540, 566(4)(i), 715(4), 718(10), 740(1), 782, 785 and, in 488; items (16) and (17);
- (iii) Section 04 of Standing Orders shall apply and Section 03 shall not;
- (iv) any provisions in Standing Orders relating to presidency at the Lord's Supper, the conduct of services of confirmation, the exercise of pastoral charge, membership of the Conference, the position of district Chairs or superintendency which apply to presbyters shall not apply to them;
- (v) any provisions in the following Standing Orders which apply to presbyters shall not apply to them, namely Standing Orders 052(4), 056(4), 414(3), 426, 480, 520, 609, 729(1)(i) and, in 488, item (12);
- (vi) any provisions in Standing Orders which apply to presbyters and are not dealt with in (i) to (v) above shall apply or not apply to them as may be directed by the President should the question arise.

(5) As to those received into Full Connexion as deacons:

- (i) all provisions in Standing Orders relating to invitations, curtailment and extension of invitations, sabbaticals, continuing development, resignation, reinstatement, base of ministry, permission to serve elsewhere or study, supernumeraries, seniority, school, prison and workplace chaplaincies, and complaints and discipline, which apply to deacons shall also apply to them;
- (ii) all provisions in the following Standing Orders which apply to deacons shall also apply to them, namely Standing Orders 212(4), 323, 364(2), 417B, 438(1A), 451, 484(1), 502(1)(b), 540, 715(4), 718(9), Section 75, 783, 785;
- (iii) Section 04 of Standing Orders shall apply and Section 03 shall not;
- (iv) any provisions in Standing Order 609(1) or in Standing Orders relating to membership of the Conference which, in either case, apply to deacons shall not apply to them;
- (v) any provisions in Standing Orders which apply to deacons and are not dealt with in (i) to (iv) above shall apply or not apply to them as may be directed by the President should the question arise.

(6) Notwithstanding Standing Order 011(5)(b), any such person who has until reception into Full Connexion been authorised under Standing Order 011 to preside at the Lord's Supper shall continue to be so authorised.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM 63: FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE REPORT

Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee price-tebbutt@methodistchurch.org.uk
Resolution	63/1. The Conference receives the Report. 63/2. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to oversee the process of producing guidelines for the authorisation, training and supervision of those seeking to engage in deliverance ministry and report to the 2021 Conference. 63/3. The Conference directs that, for the interim until further guidance is prepared, no member of the Methodist Church: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has the authorisation of the Methodist Church for participating in, or encouraging others to participate in, any act that might reasonably be interpreted as constituting the exorcism of a person or persons; or (ii) shall otherwise participate in, or encourage others to participate in, such an act in circumstances where no relevant system of support, consultation and accountability acceptable to the Methodist Church, is in place.

Revision of Guidelines on Exorcism

- 1.1. The Faith and Order Committee has continued to explore various aspects of deliverance ministry of which exorcism forms a part. Although relatively few members of the Methodist Church participate in deliverance ministry it continues to be part of the Church's ministry of healing and the Committee is working towards producing some new guidance.
- 1.2. The Faith and Order Committee has shared in conversation with a variety of Methodists who have experience of deliverance ministry and notes the increasing complexity of concerns about safe practice, particularly with regards to exorcism and working with vulnerable people. Particular caution needs to be exercised when ministering to someone in a disturbed state who is understood by some or claims to be afflicted by a power of evil or evil spirit. The Committee is aware of the need for further consultation with other safeguarding, medical and social care bodies, and that this consultation should form a part of our ongoing practice.
- 1.3. It is clear that alongside guidelines for deliverance ministry in the Methodist Church, there needs to be appropriate and robust systems of support and accountability, including adequate training, supervision, clarity about where responsibility lies, and a process for discerning whether someone has the appropriate charisms for this ministry.

The Committee therefore recommends that the Methodist Council explores how these can be put in place and that it considers what resources are required to support this ministry. Some joint working with ecumenical partners may be possible and there will be further conversations about this.

- 1.4. Until such structures and resources are put in place there is the question of how the Methodist Church ensures safe practice. Exorcism of a person is only one aspect of deliverance ministry and there are a range of pastorally appropriate responses to such a request. It is therefore recommended that the Methodist Church temporarily withdraws its authorisation for the practice of exorcism of a person or persons until the guidance and systems of accountability are in place.
- 1.5. The Faith and Order Committee intends to bring the revised guidance to the 2021 Conference. Until such time, if a situation arises to which the existing guidelines apply (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/reflecting-on-faith/faith-and-order/guidelines-for-deliverance-ministry/>), then the Chair of District should be consulted to explore referral to another Church.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

63/1. The Conference receives the Report.

63/2. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to oversee the process of producing guidelines for the authorisation, training and supervision of those seeking to engage in deliverance ministry and report to the 2021 Conference.

63/3. The Conference directs that, for the interim until further guidance is prepared, no member of the Methodist Church:

- (i) has the authorisation of the Methodist Church for participating in, or encouraging others to participate in, any act that might reasonably be interpreted as constituting the exorcism of a person or persons; or**
- (ii) shall otherwise participate in, or encourage others to participate in, such an act in circumstances where no relevant system of support, consultation and accountability acceptable to the Methodist Church, is in place.**