

Notice of Motion 2020/101: Report 2 - Methodist Council, Part 1, Section B

The Conference continues to believe that racism is a denial of the gospel and also opposes and rejects all other forms of unjust discrimination, including homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. It hears the challenge of those who proclaim that Black Lives Matter. It recognises that there is still much work to be done to ensure that individual and systemic discrimination is brought to light and rooted out of the life of the Methodist Church. While welcoming the work that has been done by the Methodist Council following the referral by the Conference of 2019 of Notices of Motion 2019/206 and 2019/207, it believes that a more robust and rigorous approach is required. Experience in many sectors has demonstrated that careful, independent and transparent monitoring processes are an essential element of combatting unjust discrimination.

In the Methodist Council report part 1, section B, therefore, add new resolutions as follows:

- 2/2a. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to monitor the extent and effectiveness of the implementation of its three directions in paragraph 5 of section B of its report and to report to the Conference of 2021.**
- 2/2b. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to produce and implement a robust, independent and transparent system for monitoring and reviewing stationing outcomes with regard to EDI concerns and to report to the Conference of 2022.**

Proposed: The Revd Mark Rowland

Seconded: The Revd Charity Nzegwu

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd David J Speirs
2. The Revd Farai Mapamula
3. The Revd Dr Karl A Rutledge
4. The Revd Delyth A Liddell

Budgetary implications

The requested work is likely to involve additional commitments outside the Council's proposed budget, which is not currently anticipated, and there are likely to be additional unbudgeted costs. If the 'independent' monitoring is sourced externally then the costs could be more significant.

Notice of Motion 2020/102: New Resolution to Report 22 - Methodist Council Report Part 2

The Conference of 2016 directed the Methodist Council 'to ensure that work be progressed to identify the key issues for the Methodist Church to consider in order to ensure that people who are intersex or transgender are included in the life of the Church.' The Conference of 2018 passed Notice of Motion 204 giving further directions regarding this work. The Conference notes that that included the presentation of a full report not later than 2021.

The Conference is aware that our current context is especially worrying for trans people. Despite its consultation indicating 70% support for long-campaigned for reforms to the Gender

Recognition Act, this work has been shelved by the government and incidences of hate crime and transphobia are rising. Many trans people have real fears for their safety and wellbeing. The Conference therefore believes that this work is particularly important now.

The Conference welcomes the proposals relating to the Inclusive Methodist Church and believes this must include trans, intersex and non-binary people alongside other EDI strands. It rejects transphobic discrimination and calls on the Methodist people to stand with trans, intersex and non-binary people.

In report 22, section K, therefore add new resolution as follows:

22/9a. The Conference notes that the work referred to in Notice of Motion 2018/204 will be reported to the Conference of 2021 and directs that it be incorporated into the Inclusive Methodist Church strategy.

Proposed: The Revd Dr Karl A Rutledge

Seconded: The Revd Alana Lawrence

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Charity Nzegwu
2. Deacon Tracey J Hume
3. The Revd Dr Helen E Jenkins
4. Ms Ruby Beech

Budgetary implications

The requested work is already envisaged and therefore there are no significant implications for the Council's proposed budget.

Notice of Motion 2020/103: EDI Scrutiny

The Conference expresses its thanks for the work done by the EDI Committee over the past six years and the work of the Task Group during the last year to help focus the work going forward "towards shaping the Methodist Church to be the Inclusive Church we have long committed ourselves to be".

The Conference notes that the reports of the EDI Task Group and the EDI Committee to the Methodist Council state that "The Methodist Council has recognised that Equality Diversity and Inclusion must move beyond being "one of many priorities competing for scarce resources and finance", to being viewed as an essential and integral part of the Church's life and mission." and that

"Achieving and maintaining the inclusive church is the responsibility of the whole church."

If achieving and maintaining the inclusive church is the responsibility of the whole Church then this must include the Conference.

The Conference also notes that one of the workstreams identified by the Task Group and the EDI Committee is "Scrutiny and Transparency".

Whilst it is not doubted that there is commitment and competency to manage and deliver the proposed implementation plan across the Connexion, it is important that scrutiny happens in a way that not only is transparent but is seen to be transparent. This could best be done by a small independent scrutiny committee with no management responsibility. This could help to engender trust and confidence, particularly to those who have been hurt in the past. If the plan progresses as intended then this committee would have a very light touch to the actual work,

as its key purpose would be scrutiny and assurance. It would report to the Council and the Conference.

The Conference therefore directs:

(1) that the Methodist Council bring the full report from the EDI Committee and the EDI Task Group to the 2021 Conference setting out the coherent implementation plan with timescales, resources and responsibilities to achieve this.

(2) that the EDI Committee and EDI Task Group working together ensure that the full report contains proposals for a small independent EDI Scrutiny Committee to be established to provide scrutiny and assurance on the implementation of the EDI plan going forward. This committee should have the authority to consult experts, within and outside the Church, in the different areas of equalities if needed.

(3) that the independent body responsible for EDI scrutiny shall report annually to the Council with a summary report to the Conference until it is confident that the EDI themes are being delivered in such a way as to ensure ongoing development of the Inclusive Church.

Proposed: Ms Ruby Beech

Seconded: The Revd Dr Michael J A Long

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Mr Bala Gnanapragasam
2. Mr Anthony Boateng
3. Miss Georgina Graham
4. Deacon Tracey J Hume

Budgetary implications

The requested work is likely to involve additional commitments outside the Council's proposed budget, which is not currently anticipated, and there are likely to be additional unbudgeted costs. The additional independent Scrutiny Committee adds a further layer of governance and, if it is sourced externally, then the costs could be more significant.

Notice of Motion 2020/104: Report 22, Section K - EDI Data Collection, Monitoring and Analysis

Report 22, Section K introduces the Conference to 'The Inclusive Methodist Church' strategy, where one of the elements is defined: 'Represents the diversity of the Methodist Church throughout its life and structures and affirms that there is no place for discrimination in our processes of selection, discernment and appointment.'

The Conference notes that it is impossible to know if the diversity of the Methodist Church is represented throughout its structures without accurate data to assist in this assessment.

The Conference recognises that for several years, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee has repeatedly asked for the production of EDI statistics without success.

In addition in para. 2.3, Section G (Resourcing Leadership) of the Methodist Council (Part 2) report to the 2016 Conference (Overcoming Barriers to Participation). The report called for:

The development of EDI profiling across a variety of offices, lay and ordained, through both records and statistics, to identify where there are particular issues and where resources may need to be prioritised.

A piece of research which looks at barriers affecting people from a number of backgrounds from offering for particular offices in the Church, including ordained ministries to support the Ministries Committee, Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee (MCPOC) and Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee (MCSC), in developing a wider and coordinated approach to these issues.

Although the Conference recognises the underrepresentation of women and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds in leadership positions and strategic committees, in the absence of accurate data and statistics it would be difficult to say what real representation would look like.

Reports from Public Health England and the Office for National Statistics on the impact of COVID-19 make clear the disproportionate impact the disease has had on BAME communities. In addition, following the unlawful killing of George Floyd in the United States and the stance taken by the Methodist Church in Britain to show solidarity with the ensuing 'Black Lives Matter' protests, it is imperative that the Methodist Church monitor, collect and analyse appropriate EDI statistics.

The collection and analysis of appropriate EDI data is critical in forming an evidence-based approach necessary to address issues of representation and disproportionality, making informed decisions and allocating resources equitably, to reflect all aspects of diversity.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. The Conference directs that the directory returns for all ministers and probationers include ethnic monitoring, and that online stationing profiles include the monitoring of all aspects of diversity.**
- 2. The Conference urges all members of the Conference and the Council to complete monitoring forms fully.**
- 3. The Conference also directs that all key committees record and monitor the range of diversity present in the make up of the committee**
- 4. The Conference encourages all Methodist employing bodies to conduct the monitoring of all aspects of diversity, for all recruitment campaigns under their control**
- 5. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to determine how the data to which resolutions 1-4 refer are to be most effectively recorded and analysed.**

Proposed: Ms Irene McKay

Seconded: Ms Georgina Ellis

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Mr Zariel Konadu
2. The Revd Steven R M Cooper
3. The Revd Charity Nzegwu
4. The Revd Delyth A Liddell

Budgetary implications

The requested work can be accommodated within the existing commitments of the Connexional Team, and there are no significant implications for the Council's proposed budget.

Notice of Motion 2020/105: Black Lives Matter: Additional resolution to report 22, Methodist Council, Part 2

With people around the world, the Conference has seen the power and passion of those who have expressed their concerns with the current events that are taking place in the USA, the UK and elsewhere with the killing of black people (notably George Floyd) and those who have been harmed by the police. The fear, anger and distress are also being reverberated in the UK and parts of the world through the Black Lives Matter movement. We stand in a prophetic moment in which people, institutions and nations are being challenged to overcome and dismantle racism and the structures which promote, sustain and enable it. Racism is not simply a matter of individual attitudes but a systemic and historic injustice of dramatic proportions. When the Conference met in Wolverhampton in 2009, it enshrined in its Standing Orders the declaration that racism is a denial of the gospel, but in reality it is still widespread within the Methodist Connexion. This notice of motion is therefore an invitation to the Conference practically to demonstrate to the world that it is appalled by these events and is taking all necessary actions to correct the wrongs of injustice and racism but also to show solidarity with victims.

The following are thus proposed as additional resolutions to report 22, section K:

22/8a. The Conference

- (i) welcomes the development of the Inclusive Methodist Church strategy and pays tribute to the efforts of those who are working to promote equality, diversity and inclusion within our connexion and to root out all discrimination. This requires the necessity of an explicit anti-racist policy in order to ensure not only diversity but an active stance against all forms of discrimination. The Conference recognises that this work requires joint effort and financial resources, in order that it may succeed and commits itself to ensure that those resources are found and provided.**
- (ii) requests the Methodist Council to seek to build strategic anti-racist actions that call for the raising up of individuals (especially those hurting from this issue), partner with other churches (across denominations) and professional bodies and move forward to a just world.**
- (iii) requests the Council to ensure that those working on the Inclusive Methodist Church strategy are supported by a diverse group of skilled and committed people with the relevant experience and understanding to develop the plans and to report back to the Conference with updates and recommendations.**
- (iv) recognises that the connexional leadership of the church, the Chairs of District, lay workers and Superintendents, as well as its own members, do not sufficiently reflect the diversity which is present within our Connexion. The Conference, therefore, seeks a greater commitment to working to overcome this lack of diverse representation.**
- (v) calls on all Methodist ministers and members to engage properly in their own contexts, without fear or favour to confront and challenge all racism and other forms of unjust discrimination that the day may come when our actions, as well as our words, show that 'racism is a denial of the gospel.'**
- (vi) directs every Circuit to convene a forum for reflection, conversation and planning as to how the actions in (v) may be carried out in each local context.**

Proposed: Mr Anthony Boateng

Seconded: Deacon Tracey J Hume

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Mark Rowland
2. The Revd Dr Jongikaya Zihle
3. The Revd Ian Howarth
4. The Revd Sonia M Hicks

Budgetary implications

The requested work is already part of the envisaged Inclusive Church agenda and therefore there are no significant implications for the Council's proposed budget.

Notice of Motion 2020/106: Amendment to Resolution 27/2

To amend the resolution by replacing the text with the following:

- The Conference welcomes the analysis provided by the Central Finance Board and JACEI, and the recent decision to disinvest from BP and Total
- The Conference notes the recognition of the climate emergency by the 2019 Conference and the need for urgent action at all levels
- The Conference notes that the Notice of Motion 2017/109 passed at the 2017 Conference requested disinvestment from any oil and gas company by the 2020 Conference that "has not aligned their business investment plans with the Paris Agreement target of a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees"
- The Conference notes that the JACEI report for the 2020 Conference on Climate change and fossil fuels, which draws the conclusion that Repsol, ENI, Royal Dutch Shell, and Equinor "are aligned, or are close to being aligned, with the Paris Agreement", has not fully implemented Notice of Motion 2017/109
- Taking account of the findings of the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI), a project supported by the Central Finance Board, the Conference urges the Methodist Council to request JACEI to recommend that the Central Finance Board fully implements Notice of Motion 2017/209, and disinvests before the 2021 Conference from all oil and gas companies which are not currently aligned with the Paris Agreement target of a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees.

Proposed: Ms Martha Rand

Seconded: The Revd John D Howard

Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Dr Jonathan H Pye
2. The Revd Ian Howarth
3. Ms Irene McKay
4. Mr Anthony Boateng

Budgetary implications

As was indicated when this Notice of Motion was submitted it has significant financial implications which are yet to be assessed, involves a significant change in our investment policy, and is likely to have ramifications for the Pensions Schemes, Connexional Funds, the Central Finance Board, local churches and Circuits.

Over the longer term oil & gas companies are a major source of portfolio income – with no exposure at all the dividend income arising to Churches will fall significantly. The recent disinvestment from BP is already having an impact.

The active risk in the Church's equity portfolio will rise as the ethical exclusions from the main UK market will now exceed 30%. That active risk would likely be unacceptable to the Pension Trustees who are bound by Pension Law and regulation. As a consequence there is a

significant risk that the Trustees would disinvest from the CFB rather than be forced to accept higher active risk in their equity portfolio.

This Notice of Motion has significant implications for the life of the whole Connexion.

Notice of Motion 2020/107: Amendment to Resolution 25/1

“Reaffirming *Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship*” proposes, in Resolution 25/1, that Circuit Meetings are directed to conduct a review to achieve the minimum number of trustee bodies necessary to fulfil their calling. Smaller Local Churches, however, often feel vulnerable and can, therefore, be naturally resistant to proposals that involve giving up what is perceived to be ownership of and responsibility for their future. This means, regrettably, that the persuasive rationale set out in section 2 which underpins Resolution 25/1 is likely to be ignored unless some extra impetus is given to those discussions within a Circuit.

The Report recognises the need to arrange trusteeship in such ways that maximise the potential missional fruitfulness of all our resources, freeing churches as much as possible from governance burdens, so that they can “focus more clearly on fulfilling *Our Calling*”.

Consideration is given in para. 25.2.2 to the suggestion that the minimum number of members for a Local Church might be raised “from six to somewhere between 12 and 25”, and that this “would not preclude a small number of Methodists meeting for worship, maintaining a building, and still having funds available for the maintenance and mission of their cause”. However, a resolution to enact this is not within the proposed resolutions and, therefore, the likelihood of Resolution 25/1 resulting in any positive missional change is significantly reduced.

*****AMENDED RESOLUTION**

25/1. The Conference welcomes and affirms the ethos and direction of the Report, supports the suggestion that raising the minimum size for a Local Church will assist Circuits to co-ordinate their mission. The Conference, therefore, directs the Methodist Council, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to ensure that a review of Standing Order 605 (1) and (2) takes place and that a proposal is brought to the 2021 Conference to raise the minimum size for a Local Church, together with examples of creative ways in which one Church on multiple sites and/or federations of classes under a united Church Council can enable local missional communities to flourish. In the light of this, and to maximise the potential fruitfulness of all Circuits’ use of their resources, the Conference further directs all Circuit Meetings to review the number of Church Councils in the Circuit and encourages Church Councils to work together to determine the best way of working to achieve the minimum number of trustee bodies necessary to fulfil its calling.

Proposed: The Revd Stuart Earl

Seconded: The Revd Leslie M Newton

Budgetary implications

The requested work is already envisaged and therefore there are no significant implications for the Council’s proposed budget.

Notice of Motion 2020/108: Report 25. Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship

The Conference welcomes diversity and equality throughout the Methodist Church but is aware that our structural systems often favour the status quo. This means that our black, asian and ethnic minority members, our LGBT members, our members with disability and impairment,

and still at times, the women of the church, are less likely to be seen in positions of responsibility within the church, despite our long history of commitment to the inclusion of all people.

The rethinking of our oversight and trusteeship should then provide the ideal opportunity for identifying some of the systemic failures within our structures that prevents some people from being encouraged to take up positions within the church. However, Report 25: Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship, fails to take this into consideration except to note the necessity for diversity in the new Trustees group mentioned in Para 4.2, and that the new Nominations Committee will be tasked to “ensure transparency and diversity across all the connexional committees” (para 4.3).

The Conference is aware of the work of the EDI Committee and the EDI Task Group in working towards an implementation plan towards the vision of ‘The Inclusive Methodist Church’ as outlined in Report 22, Section K, and notes that this will include an examining of the structures of our church (Point 4). The Conference therefore directs that any work done by committees directed to act on the proposals contained in this report are done in a way that reflects The Inclusive Methodist Church agenda, in order that equality and diversity are taken into consideration at the outset.

The Conference further believes that diversity and equality is the work of the whole church and is fundamentally important in all areas of the life of the church. Therefore, in Churches, Circuits and Districts those responsible for reviewing and appointing people to committees and trusteeships within the church, should be required to undertake Unconscious Bias related training in order to ensure there is equality and diversity within the appointments process.

The Conference therefore adds new resolutions as follows:

25/1(a).The Conference directs Circuit Meetings and Church Councils to undertake Unconscious Bias related training in order to ensure equality and diversity within the appointments process of the new trustee bodies.

25/6(a).The Conference directs that within the process of reviewing mission plans, committee structures and ways of working at District Level, equality and diversity will be taken into consideration, and that any persons responsible for appointing new members to those committees will undertake Unconscious Bias related training.

The Conference therefore amends the following resolution:

25/9. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a small group to have oversight of the work on structures of oversight and trusteeship to ensure that there is collaborative working, further consultation as necessary taking into consideration and addressing The Inclusive Methodist Church agenda and that other concerns already identified are addressed, and in order to ensure that the proposals brought to the 2021 Conference are cohesive and comprehensive

Proposed: The Revd Delyth A Liddell

Seconded: The Revd Charity Nzegwu

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Rachel L Collins
2. Ms Irene McKay
3. The Revd Alana Lawrence
4. The Revd Dr P Kofi Amissah

Budgetary implications

Production of video resources to enable self-delivery of Unconscious Bias training will incur additional costs of £5,000-£10,000. All other costs are already included in the work of this report.

Notice of Motion 2020/109: Report 34 Additional Resolution

1. The Conference notes that:

- Agenda Item 25 '*Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship*' would, if implemented, reduce the number of Church Councils. This would enable decisions about a number of places of worship to be made by one Church Council or Circuit Meeting acting as Managing Trustees. This could mean that a 'larger Church Council' (para 2.2) or Circuit Meeting would be responsible for appointing Worship Leaders to more than one places of worship in a Circuit. This would create an inconsistency as to whether Worship Leaders were appointed by the Circuit Meeting or Church Council and whether they are appointed to one or more places of worship.
- Agenda Item 32 '*Faith and Order Report*' raises questions about the membership of the Local Preachers Meeting, the tensions around the invitation to Worship Leaders to attend and not vote, and the important role of the meeting in training, accountability and development of preachers. (para 4.1.2.3). It notes in the last sentence of 4.1.2.3 that '*The relationship of worship leaders to the Local Preachers' Meeting therefore warrants further clarification, not least in the light of pastoral concerns and to ensure greater consistency in practice throughout the Connexion.*'
- Agenda Item 34 '*Changing Patterns of Ministry*' recommends to the Conference the creation of office of Local Lay Pastor in the Methodist Church. The proposal recommends that Local Lay Pastors would be appointed by the Circuit Meeting and that responsibility for oversight, accountability, support and training would reside with the Circuit Meeting (para 4.3.5).

2. In light of these three reports the Conference acknowledges:

- In larger Circuits with sizeable Circuit Meetings it would be impracticable for the Circuit Meeting itself to carry out the oversight, accountability, support and training of Local Lay Pastors and would probably need to delegate this to another body on its behalf.
- For all Local Lay Pastors to be members of the Circuit Meeting (para 4.3.4 d) in larger Circuits may not be helpful. We note that not all Local Preachers are members of the Circuit Meeting.
- There is a richness and benefit when those who have a variety of vocations share together in the oversight, accountability, support and training of each other's ministries. For example, the richness a lay person brings to a tutorial team in pre-ordination training or the wisdom an experienced worship leader can offer to a Local Preacher on Trial.
- There would be a helpful consistency and a more efficient use of resources if the oversight, accountability, support and training of Worship Leaders, Local Preachers and Local Lay Pastors was held with the Circuit rather than being shared between the Circuit and Local Churches.
- That fewer meetings and committees is generally better and bringing groups with similar purposes together creates a greater cohesion and consistency.

3. The Conference therefore directs the Ministries Committee and the Faith and Order Committee in its ongoing work around Local Lay Pastors to explore the possibility of replacing the Local Preachers Meeting with a Local Ministries Meeting which would:

- a) Be made up of the Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Local Lay Pastors in the Circuit.

- b) Meet regularly for worship and fellowship as those engaged in these ministries (Report 33: Ministry in the Methodist Church para 7.3).
- c) Be responsible for:
 - i. the oversight, accountability, support and training of Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Local Lay Pastors including the current responsibilities of the Local Preachers Meeting in S0560-569.
 - ii. Recommending to the Circuit Meeting those who should be accredited as Local Preachers or appointed as Worship Leaders or Local Lay Pastors.
 - iii. Appointing representatives of the Local Ministries Meeting to the Circuit Meeting to ensure each of these ministries are represented in the Circuit Meeting.
 - iv. Encouraging vocations in the life of the Circuit especially to the ministries of Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and Local Lay Pastors.
 - v. Enabling communities of practice for those exercising lay ministries in the life of the Circuit.
- d) Enable good communication between the Ministries Committee and those in authorised ministries in the life of the Circuits.

Additional Resolution to Report 34: The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee and Ministries Committee to explore the possibility of replacing the Local Preachers Meeting with a Local Ministries Meeting as outlined in 3 and to report to the Conference no later than 2022.

Proposed: The Revd David M Goodall

Seconded: The Revd Iain M Ballard

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Ruby Beech
2. Ms Rachel L Collins
3. The Revd Stuart Earl
4. Mr Alister McClure

Budgetary implications

The requested work is likely to involve additional commitments outside the Council's proposed budget, which is not currently anticipated, and therefore there are likely to be additional unbudgeted costs.

Notice of Motion 2020/110: Additional Resolution Report 34

The Conference thanks the Faith and Order Committee for the work undertaken on the Theology of online life as outlined in Agenda Item 32 Section 7. It recognises the stated need for reflection on the church's current and expanding experience of worshipping as an online community and looks forward to the fuller report on the theology of online life at the 2021 Conference.

Nevertheless the Conference believes that the exceptional current circumstances which have left the Methodist people deprived of partaking in Holy Communion for three months demands an immediate and contextual response. Whilst a return to physical space may mean that some congregation members are able to share in Holy Communion in a matter of weeks, for many more vulnerable people it may not be safe to do so for an indeterminate time. This is concerning not least in how it will sit alongside our commitment towards the vision of "The Inclusive Methodist Church" (Agenda Item 22, section K)

The Methodist people share a common endeavour in seeking to discern faithfully how to live as a eucharistic community under the current restrictions. The Conference recognises the

impossibility of theologically reflecting or conferring upon questions raised by these experiences in ways which would sufficiently justify any alteration to the Methodist Church's stated understanding of Holy Communion by this Conference. However the Conference also recognises the desirability of ministers and congregations being able to respond pastorally, faithfully and appropriately to local need. In the light of this tension, the following additional resolution is proposed:

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

32/3. Notwithstanding resolution 31/2 of the 2018 Conference and acknowledging that the Methodist Church has not determined that online communion is possible, the Conference agrees that until it can reach a considered position in 2021 it nevertheless permits ministers and congregations to participate in the eucharistic assembly online in ways that seem appropriate to them.

Proposed: The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

Seconded: The Revd Stephen J Lindridge

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Dr Keith R Albans
2. The Revd Richard J Byass
3. Deacon Richard D Goldstraw
4. Mrs Jean Hamilton

Budgetary implications

The requested work is already envisaged and therefore there are no significant implications for the Council's proposed budget.

Notice of Motion 2020/111: Resolution 53/9 Methodist Council, Part 3

The Conference amends resolution 53/9 to read:

*****RESOLUTION**

53/9. The Conference notes that the Council will bring a new budget proposal for 2021/22 to the 2021 Conference and directs that the Church in the Margins element of budget includes a commitment to fund social justice projects that reach the most marginalised in society using the current criteria for Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice, as in SO 1004.

Proposed: The Revd Ian Howarth

Seconded: The Revd Dr Michael J A Long

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Mrs Jean Hamilton
2. The Revd Ian S Rutherford
3. The Revd Mark Rowland
4. The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

Budgetary implications

This resolution does not call for any commitment relating to 2020/21, and therefore any proposed budget for that period is unaffected. The Conference is reminded that by prioritising

any one particular area of expenditure within the Church at the Margins budget they are at the same time accepting that savings will have to be made in other areas of the same budget.

Within the Council's budget there would be an immediate need for additional resources to assess and manage the financial implications.

Notice of Motion 2020/112: Conference Arrangements

The Conference notes:

- with the reduction in the length and scope of the Conference of 2020, a significant quantity of substantial business must be deferred for proper discussion to the Conference of 2021;
- this will add significantly to the Conference agenda for 2021, beyond the extent of the business which the Conference would normally require to do.

In order to enable the Conference of 2021 to confer fully, properly and carefully on the important matters that will be before it, the Conference therefore amends Resolution 5/1 to read:

The Conference adopts the Report, and directs the Conference Office to work, in conjunction with the Conference Business Committee and others as necessary, to seek to extend, by at least the equivalent of one business day, the time available for the conduct of the business of the 2021 Conference.

(This might include, for example, undertaking business on the Saturday morning and Thursday afternoon of the Conference, or an additional electronic meeting to deal with non-contentious business.)

Proposed: The Revd Steven R M Cooper

Seconded: The Revd Mark Rowland

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Mr James D Blackhall
2. Mr Matt Collins
3. The Revd Jeremy H A Hackett
4. The Revd Richard Ormrod

Budgetary implications

The requested work may incur some additional costs relating to Conference arrangements, these are unlikely to be significant.

Notice of Motion 2020/113: Report 24 – Ecumenical Report

The Conference celebrates the valuable work of Churches Together in England (CTE) and rejoices in its *emphasis on mission and flexible approach to new partnerships*. (Para 6.1).

The Conference notes that members of CTE work together across deep disagreement on core doctrinal issues, such as around the nature of the Church, the Sacraments and Orders of Ministry, and gives thanks for the grace shown in this way of working.

The Conference further notes that since 2014, being in same-sex marriage is nor a bar to any office within the Methodist Church.

The Conference, therefore, expresses its dismay that the CTE Enabling Group asked the Fourth Group to refrain from the duly elected president - Hannah Brock Womack - taking her seat, prompted by her same-sex marriage.

Furthermore, the Conference laments the pain that the Enabling Group's decision inflicts on Ms. Brock Womack, the Religious Society of Friends and LGBTQ+ Christians and their allies.

In report 24, *Ecumenical Report*, therefore, add the resolutions:

24/2. The Conference encourages CTE to allow Hannah Brock Womack to take up the position for which she was duly nominated, rejoicing that we journey together as ecumenical partners despite our various differences.

24/3. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to communicate the text of this Notice of Motion to the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of CTE and the six Presidents, including Hannah Brock Womack.

Proposed: The Revd J Paul Parker

Seconded: The Revd Delyth A Liddell

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Mrs Ann P Leck
2. Mr James D Blackhall
3. Mrs Anna Malnutt
4. Mr Jason L McMahon

Budgetary implications

Requested work and costs can be accommodated within the Council's proposed budget for 2020/21.