

REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

09:30 Morning worship

09:45 Administration

Report from the Conference Business Committee (Order Paper page 35)
Resolution B4 (Order Paper page 35)

Agenda Item 23: Connexional Central Services Budget 2020/2021 (Agenda pages 205-220)

Agenda Item 32: Faith and Order Committee Report (Agenda pages 289-299, Order Paper page 5)
Resolution 32/1 (Agenda page 299)
Notice of Motion 2020/110 (Order Paper pages 36-37)

Agenda Item 63: Faith and Order Committee Report (Order Paper pages 21-22)
Resolutions 63/1, 63/2, 63/3 (Order Paper page 22)

Agenda Item 35: The Ministerial Covenant (Agenda pages 379-402)
Resolutions 35/1, 35/2 (Agenda page 380)

Agenda Item 34: Changing Patterns of Ministry (Agenda pages 341-378)
Resolutions 34/1, 34/3, 34/4 (Agenda page 377), 34/11 (Order Paper page 5), 34/12 (Order Paper pages 5-6)

Agenda Item 27: Climate change and fossil fuels: response to Memorial 32 (2017) and Conference reply (Agenda pages 246-265, Order Paper pages 31-32)
Resolutions 27/1, 27A/1 (Order Paper page 32), 27/2 (Agenda page 259)
Notice of Motion 2020/106

11:00 Break

11:30 Bible Study led by Deacon Karen McBride

11:40 Daily Record

Agenda Item 6: Special Resolution (Agenda pages 86-88)
Resolution 6/1 (page 88)

Agenda Item 31: Statistics for Mission (Agenda pages 283-288, Order Paper page 32)
Resolution 31/1 (Agenda page 288)

Agenda Item 4: God for all: The Connexional Strategy for Evangelism and Growth (Agenda pages 39-82)
Resolution 4/1 (page 78)

Agenda Item 53: Methodist Council, part 3
Section S: Refocusing God for all in the light of COVID-19 (pages 535-541)
Resolutions 53/7, 53/8, 53/9 (page 540)

Resolutions 4/2 (if 53/8 is lost), 4/3 (page 78)

Agenda Item 25: Reaffirming Our Calling: Oversight and Trusteeship (Agenda pages 227-239, Order Paper page 30)
Resolutions 25/0 (Order Paper page 30), 25/1, 25/2, 25/3, 25/4, 25/5, 25/6 (Agenda page 236), 25/7, 25/8 (Agenda page 237), 25/9 (Order Paper page 30)
Notice of Motion 2020/107
Notice of Motion 2020/108 (amendment Order Paper page

Agenda Item 12: 3Generate 2019 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly
(Agenda pages 109-113, Order Paper page 28)
Resolutions 12/1, 12/2 (page 112), 12/3 (page 113), 12/4 (Order Paper page 28), 12/5 (Order Paper page 28)

13:30 Adjourn

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee is grateful for the forbearance of the Conference as its business overran yesterday. This has left a considerable amount of unfinished business so, owing to the pressure on time, the Business Committee recommends that the Conference adjourns no later than 13:30 on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Business Committee further recommends that speeches be reduced to three minutes for presenters and two minutes for speakers. Where it is felt that there is support for notices of motion which have been presented, it is suggested that seconders do not need to speak.

Members of the Conference will note the list of business for today, and the Committee suggests that Agenda Item 35: The Ministerial Covenant is not expected to be a major discussion item. The Conference is asked to commend it to the Connexion for study and response, and therefore there will be opportunity for discussion and debate in other contexts and at the Conference of 2022 if the resolutions attached to the report are adopted. The Committee also notes that item 31 will now be presented immediately before item 4 with which there are overlapping themes and therefore might not necessitate much discussion.

By way of clarification, the Business Committee confirms that Notice of Motion 2020/109 is now not to be put to the Conference since it seeks to amend a resolution which the Conference has agreed to withdraw.

The Business Committee asks the permission of the Conference for Agenda Item 33: Ministry in the Methodist Church to be deferred to the 2021 Conference, as indicated in its First Report (Agenda page 168).

Members of the Conference are reminded that the confidential papers which were shared with the closed sessions of both the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions should be shredded or deleted from electronic systems.

***RESOLUTION

B/4. The Conference adopts the Report.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Correction to the Order Paper page 28:

Add the text below to Agenda Item 14, rather than Agenda Item 19 as stated on page 28.

AGENDA ITEM 14: METHODIST SCHOOLS (Pages 128-132)

The chair of MIST has recently resigned from that role. Under Standing Order 244(1)(i) and paragraph 3.4.1 of MIST's Articles of Association, the chair of MIST must be appointed by the Conference.

The trustees of MIST desire a new chair to be appointed as soon as possible, and in any event before the 2021 Conference.

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION**

14/18.In exercise of the power of delegation given by clause 21(viii) of the Deed of Union, the Conference delegates to the Methodist Council its power to appoint the chair of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST) and directs that the Council, acting on behalf of the Conference, shall appoint a new chair of MIST as soon as reasonably practicable.

NOTICE OF MOTION 108: REPORT 25. REAFFIRMING OUR CALLING: OVERSIGHT AND TRUSTEESHIP

In the new resolutions, amend the numbering as follows:

For 25/1(a) read 25/1a

For 25/6(a) read 25/6a

NOTICE OF MOTION 110: ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION REPORT 32

Replace text with:

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 resolutions are proposed:

*****ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS**

- 32/3. The Conference encourages Local Churches to reflect on their response to deprivation in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. To assist Local Churches in this, it directs the Faith and Order Committee, as a matter of urgency, to produce guidance on acts of Holy Communion in our current context, including reflection on ways in which appropriate online participation in services of Holy Communion might be encouraged.**
- 32/4. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to undertake further reflection on Holy Communion, and to bring a report and recommendations regarding 'online communion' to the 2021 Conference.**