

12. 3Generate 2019 – Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

Contact name and details	Thelma Commey, Youth President youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk
Resolutions	<p>12/1. The Conference receives the Report.</p> <p>12/2. The Conference commends the resource <i>Engaging with the 3Generate Manifesto</i> to all Methodist churches for prayerful study and action (www.methodist.org.uk/media/15216/engaging-with-the-3gen-manifesto-final.pdf).</p> <p>12/3. The Conference urges every Church Council to include the ‘Eco Church challenge’ on its agenda during the next connexional year.</p> <p>12/4. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee, in conversation with the Queen’s Foundation, to explore how mental health awareness is included in presbyteral and diaconal training and to report to the 2021 Conference via the Methodist Council.</p> <p>12/5. The Conference commends the Mental Health First Aid work being done by the Connexional Team and asks for a report to the 2022 Conference via the Methodist Council.</p>

Note: the 3Generate manifesto was included in the printed agenda

Introduction

1. 3Generate is the children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church. Children and young people, from all across the Connexion gather to share fellowship and engage in dialogue about issues that are important. This is an action-packed, inspirational weekend for all.

Attendance

2. With 1,079 delegates, aged 8-23, 272 volunteers, 339 group leaders, 11 One Programme Participants (OPPs) and 11 3Generate Representatives, a total of 1,947 people were a part of 3Generate 2019, making it our largest event yet.

Themes

3. This year 3Generate embodied two themes – “Where is God in my story?” and “Jesus Loves All”.
4. The theme “Where is God in my story?” was birthed from the overarching Year of Testimony requested by the young people at 3Generate in 2017. This was a call to encourage our Church to be more confident in speaking of our faith.
5. “Jesus Loves All” was the Youth President’s theme which focused on encouraging young people to share the story of God’s love in creative ways.

Overview of programme

6. The programme reflected diverse ways of storytelling. Young people had opportunities to tell their own story through music, arts and crafts, dance, sports, dialogue and other media. There were also multiple opportunities to recognise God in their story such as in collective worship experiences, silent reflection spaces and group Bible studies and prayer.
7. At the heart of all this, young people were encouraged to engage in dialogue and have a voice in the bigger story of the Church and world as a whole. 3Generate built a wall of bricks (see paragraph 11) which listed individual and collective voices on a variety of issues that the young people believe to be important.

Elections

8. The following people were elected as 3Generate representatives at the 2019 event:

Role	Name
Youth President 2020/2021	Phoebe Parkin
Conference Representatives	Martha Rand Gemma Curtis Conner Dickens
Council Representatives	Charlotte Hambly
British Youth Council Representatives	James Jenkins James Carver Ben Andrews Victor Kuyeli Isaac Nketiah-Boateng
Ecumenical Representative	John Forsdick Verity Wild
Social Justice Representative	Mary Sharples

9. These representatives will join Roxanne Bromley, Roxanne Bainbridge, Emily Roe and Michael Pryke on the 3Generate representative team. They will serve as the Youth President's Advisory Group, under Standing Order 250(9).

The 3Generate Manifesto

10. The manifestos and resources are produced to equip the whole Church to be in continuous dialogue with children and young people. The children and young people are empowered to work together to take action, with their local community, in a relevant way.
11. At 3Generate 2019, the attendees built the manifesto in a visual way – using cardboard bricks that were added to an ever growing wall. Children and young people were invited to add statements about issues they cared about to a brick and then add this to the wall, where others were able to add stickers to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with the statement. During the weekend we gathered 112 individual statements on bricks and had overwhelming engagement with regards to the sticker voting.
12. The statements ranged widely in subject matter, from the environmental crisis to the participation of children and young people in the Church. Each brick represented a deep and

serious conversation between the individual proposing the issue and the team working on the wall (made up largely of 3Generate Youth Reps).

13. Whilst some of the key themes – the environment, equality and diversity, mental health, and relationships – were to be expected, there was also an overriding sense that children and young people were desperate for deeper connection with each other and with the adults who formed part of their church community; this (along with more inclusive churches) was more important to them than the style of worship music on offer or the youth group programme. A summary of these conversations is represented in this year's manifesto.

Future of 3Generate

14. It is with great joy that we are relocating to the NEC in Birmingham as a response to an ever-growing number of participants.
15. 20/20 Vision means being able to see clearly. We have taken this on as our theme for 3Generate 2020. We want to refocus on what God's vision is for us as the Church in the world, this year and beyond. We are seeking clarity of vision by:
 - Encouraging children and young people to listen to God
 - Expecting God to speak
 - Noticing what our individual role is in God's vision
 - Supporting young people in taking action on what God is calling them to do
 - Sharing God's vision and encouraging the wider Church to join in.

Resolutions

16. One of the manifesto statements was a call from children and young people to "make churches more eco-friendly". In January 2016, the Eco Church Award scheme was launched by A Rocha, with support from a connexional grant. The 2016 Conference adopted Notice of Motion 2016/206, stating, "The Conference... invites all Methodist congregations to take the Eco Church challenge." In January 2018, the Methodist Council endorsed proposals for Eco Circuit and Eco District schemes (MC/18/16). A parallel scheme – Eco Congregation – runs in Scotland and was recognised and commended by the Conference in 2019 via Memorial M54 from the Stamford Circuit. As of April 2020, 305 Methodist churches (out of 4,271) are registered with the scheme: 68 have bronze awards, 22 have silver awards, and one church, Stratford-Upon-Avon, has won an Eco Church Gold Award. In Scotland, 7 Methodist churches are registered with the Eco Congregation Scheme.
17. We commend the work that has been done so far. We want to reissue the challenge made by the Conference in 2016, inviting all Methodist congregations to take the Eco Church challenge. To facilitate that, we call on every church council to include the topic on their agenda at some point in 2020/2021.
18. Another key manifesto point, and one that has been included consistently over the years, is resourcing to support those with mental health issues. Part of Our Calling is to be a good neighbour to people in need. While the Church is not a healthcare provider, we believe the Church does have a role to play in this area. We are advocating for more Methodists to undertake the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course.

19. Specifically, we are calling on the Ministries Committee and the Queen's Foundation to include the MHFA course in presbyteral and diaconal training pathways. Furthermore, we are calling on the Learning Network team to train one officer per region as a MHFA trainer, so that they can lead courses in their region for ministers and lay people in pastoral roles.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

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