

20. First Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee

Contact name and details	The Revd Ruth M Gee Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
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1. The Presbyteral Session proceeds for much of its business by way of conversation. Under Clause 23(m) of the Deed of Union the Presbyteral Session may discuss any subject in the Agenda of the Representative Session or any subject within the jurisdiction of the Conference and communicate its views thereon to the Representative Session by resolution or otherwise.
2. Members of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference may submit Notices of Motion for the Conference to consider (see below for the procedures). They may also ask that the Session be able to confer from a presbyteral perspective about particular items in the published Agenda of the Conference. All such requests will be considered by the Business Committee and time found for them where possible.
3. So far the following has been identified by the Committee:
Ministerial Covenant
4. The Presbyteral Session of the Conference will meet in closed session at 16:30 on Thursday 25 June, and this is expected to last for around 90 minutes.
5. The Presbyteral Session defines by resolution who may normally be present at closed sessions. Attendance when it sits as a court of appeal is governed by Standing Order 1145(7).

The Conference is reminded of a distinction made in Section G of the Law and Polity Committee report to the 2008 Conference entitled *Attendance at the Closed Session of the Ministerial Session of the Conference*. There is a difference between the Conference's conferring on general questions of policy and principle on the one hand, and its decision-making on particular cases to do with identifiable individuals on the other. Because of the need for confidentiality and for other legal reasons, the latter needs to be dealt with in closed session, and only those who will bear the responsibility for the decisions that are made should hear or otherwise receive the information about the cases concerned. This means that those presbyters who are not members of the Representative Session of the Conference, but are attending the Presbyteral Session of the Conference with the permission of a Presbyteral Session of a Synod and at their own expense are not able to be present in the closed sessions of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference: in other words, they do not participate in the decision-making in those closed sessions, nor do they hear the information that is shared within them.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/3 will therefore be moved.

6. Details about candidates, probationers, those proposed for transfer and other permissions and authorisations will be made available to voting members of the Conference. Information regarding candidates is confidential to those who are present in the closed session. If there are any questions regarding particular cases, please contact the Revd Dr Claire Potter (potterc@methodistchurch.org.uk) as soon as possible in advance in order that any necessary information can be collated in time for this item of business.

7. **The Record**

For the sake of accuracy it is desirable that the Presbyteral Session delegates to the Representative Session the responsibility for adopting the Record of its Session, thus allowing time for members to check its details.

At an appropriate point Resolution 5/4 will therefore be moved.

8. **Notices of Motion**

The procedure for the submission of Notices of Motion is set out in SO 132, which can be found in the Rules of Procedure, printed at the beginning of Agenda Volume One. The circumstances surrounding the meeting of the Conference this year have led to the proposal that Notices of Motion unrelated to the business being considered should not be brought. The Committee will therefore bring a recommendation to the Conference in its second report related to the suspension of parts of SO 132.

*****RESOLUTION**

20/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

(Daily Record 1/9)

Second Report from the Presbyteral Session 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 Presbyteral Session is required to elect a new member of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee, to serve for the Conferences of 2021, 2022 and 2023.
3. A nomination form was circulated electronically to all voting members of the Conference.
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 address from which the email is sent must be that used to register as a member of the Conference. The details of the email addresses to which this should be sent are included on the nomination form.

5. Ballot papers will be circulated as soon as possible on Thursday evening, and will need to be returned by 9:30 am on Friday morning. Voting members of the Conference should send their completed ballot paper to the designated email address 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/9, the Business Committee requests that all notices of motion which relate directly to the business before the Conference are submitted using the standard form (which has been sent to members of the Conference) by the deadline of 4:30 pm on Thursday 25 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. Again, the address from which the email is sent must be that used to register as a member of the Conference.

*****RESOLUTION**

PB/1. The Conference received the Report.
(Daily Record 1/10)