

21. First Report of the Conference Business Committee

Contact name and details	The Revd Loraine N Mellor Chair of the Conference Business Committee chair@methodist-nd.org.uk
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1. Membership of the Conference Business Committee

The Conference Business Committee for 2020 comprises Mr Stephen H Cooper, the Revd Sonia Hicks, Deacon Tracey Hume, the Revd Loraine N Mellor (Chair), the Revd Stephen J Radford, Mrs Caroline Stead, and Mr Frank Watson. The Revd Sonia Hicks and Deacon Tracey Hume have been appointed to serve the Business Committee for the 2020 Conference by the Methodist Council under the provisions of Standing Order 136(1C). During the year, Mr David Walton stepped down as the Committee's Chair, and the Council appointed the Revd Loraine N Mellor to chair the Committee for the rest of the year. The Council (elsewhere in the Agenda) now nominates Mrs Mellor as Chair for the ensuing three Conferences.

2. Meetings and reports

- The Business Committee will meet during the Conference as necessary.
- The Business Committee will report each day in the Order Paper. It will indicate any variations to the outline schedule.

3. Length of speeches

It is recommended that presenters of business have four minutes and speakers three minutes. In exceptional circumstances, with the approval of the President and Vice-President, these allocations may be changed.

Cognisant of its responsibility under SO 136(2)(iv) the Committee has advised the President and Vice-President that those wishing to speak on some items of business should indicate their intention to do so in advance of the start of the debate. The second report of the Committee will detail the process whereby this will be arranged and the items of business to which it will apply.

4. Use of time

4.1 Members of the Conference will want to ensure that their time is spent wisely and effectively. To this end, the Business Committee will endeavour to ensure that as far as possible, business follows the schedule published. The Conference will be live streamed and those watching will be relying on the published schedule being observed. Therefore, without wishing to deny opportunity to speak or to curtail debate unhelpfully, the Business Committee strongly urges members of the Conference to maintain the discipline of keeping to its schedule. It is unfair to have to foreshorten business scheduled for later in the week because earlier items have overrun.

4.2 With this in mind, the Business Committee asks that:

- speeches are not made unnecessarily when it is evident that the outcome is clear;
- representatives refrain from making speeches or comments that have already been made and from repeating what has been said and heard; and
- the Conference focuses on reaching decisions with the minimum necessary debate that does the subject justice.

4.3 The Committee asks members of the Conference to bear in mind that live streaming enables a wider audience for Conference debates; representatives are therefore asked to consider their contributions to debates in the light of that. The Committee asks representatives not to address directly those watching proceedings via the Internet, in the same way that those watching in a public gallery would not be addressed. This helps to remind members of the Conference of the particular responsibilities that they carry as voting members.

5. Notices of Motion

Standing Order 132 reads as follows:

132 Notices of Motion. (1) Subject to Standing Order 131(4) any two members may upon notice of motion complying with this Standing Order bring before the Conference any lawful resolution within the competence of the Conference.

(1A) Every notice of motion shall be handed to the Secretary in written form and signed by the following persons:

- (i) where the proposal is to amend a resolution and those responsible for presenting that business to the Conference are prepared to accept it, the proposer and seconder of the motion;
- (ii) where such a proposal to amend is not accepted by those responsible, the proposer and seconder and four other persons;
- (iii) in all other cases, the proposer and seconder and eight other persons.

(2) Only on matters of urgency, so judged by the President after consultation with the Vice-President, shall notices of motion in the Representative Session be accepted after 4.30pm on the third day of the session, except that a notice of motion proposing to amend a resolution circulated or materially altered on or after the first day of the session shall be accepted if lodged before the close of business on the day before the resolution is to be dealt with.

5.1 In the light of the way in which the Conference is being conducted this year, the Committee proposes the suspension of parts of SO 132, specifically noting that it will not be possible for the Conference to consider Notices of Motion that are not related to business under discussion. The Committee will bring that proposal and further details about how Notices of Motion are to be submitted and handled this year in its second report.

5.2 The Committee therefore has not included in its report details about how a Notice of Motion should be submitted if the Conference decides to permit them this year. These details (which will be needed if notices are to be submitted in relation to business considered on Saturday or Monday in particular) are available on request from the Conference Office (conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk).

6. Memorials

It is anticipated that all memorials will be dealt with during the Conference, ie taken with existing business to which they relate, debated separately, referred to other bodies, deferred to a subsequent Conference or the replies adopted *en bloc*, based on the recommendations of the Memorials Committee.

7. Nominations

All nominees for President-Designate, Vice-President-Designate and Conference-elected representatives are to submit photographs which, along with their details, will be shared with the Conference. The arrangements for this will be notified on the Order Paper at the Conference. Arrangements for how the nominations are to be received and the elections conducted will be shared with the Conference in the second Report of the Committee.

Nominations for designation of **President and Vice-President of the Conference** of 2021 must be submitted by **5.30pm on Monday 29 June**. They will be shared with the Conference on Tuesday; voting will close at 6.00pm on Tuesday; the results will be announced on Wednesday morning.

Nominations for **Conference-elected representatives**: members of the Conference are asked to follow **strictly** the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly. Nomination forms must be submitted by **2.00pm on Tuesday 30 June**; voting will close at 5.00pm on Wednesday; the results will be announced on Thursday morning.

This year, of the three Conference-elected representatives to serve from 2021 to 2023, two will be presbyteral and one will be lay, thus fulfilling SO 103(2A).

Nominations for **Conference Business Committee members**: you are asked to follow **strictly** the instructions on the nomination form. Please ensure that you seek the consent of persons nominated and complete the forms fully and clearly. The election timetable will be the same as for Conference-elected representatives, as above. It should be noted that election to the Business Committee does not carry a right to membership of succeeding Conferences. Members of the Business Committee are required to be members of the Conference, and therefore if they are subsequently not elected as a representative by their Synod they will not be able to take up their place on the Committee.

This year, four Business Committee members, two ministers and two lay persons, are required to be elected and may serve for the three years 2021-2023.

In summary, the deadlines for nominations and elections are as follows:

Election	Nominations close	Voting closes
President of the Conference	Monday 5.30pm	Tuesday 6.00pm
Vice-President of the Conference	Monday 5.30pm	Tuesday 6.00pm
Conference-elected representatives	Tuesday 2.00pm	Wednesday 5.00pm
Conference Business Committee: Representative Session	Tuesday 2.00pm	Wednesday 5.00pm

8. Provisional legislation

Under Standing Order 122, any two members, by Notice of Motion, may propose that an item agreed by the Conference be referred to the Synods as a **provisional resolution** before being proposed for final adoption by the Conference next year.

9. Letter-writing

Any member of the Conference requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference should note the following criteria and procedure:

- a. The Conference writes automatically to those who have served in ordained ministry for 70 or more years, and those celebrating the 25th, 50th or 60th anniversaries of their ordinations.
- b. The Conference will write, for a specific reason, to those who have a direct link with the Conference, or represent the World Church, or have an ecumenical relationship with the Methodist Church, or have a claim to achievements that are outstanding in the life of the Church or on its behalf.
- c. The letter-writer, with consultation as necessary, will be the appropriate person to give guidance to Conference members as to whether a proposed letter is within the criteria.

- d. Requests for letters to be sent must be submitted on a standard form, giving all the required details, to the letter-writer. Further details of how to obtain and submit the forms will be contained in the Committee's second Report.
- e. The recipients of letters will be listed in the Daily Record for the information of the Conference.

10. *En bloc* items

The Business Committee proposes that the items of business listed below be voted *en bloc*. Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the *en bloc* list those items will automatically be removed from the list. In addition, by giving notice to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that an item be removed from the list and debated. Such notice must be given before the close of business on Monday 29 June (SO 134A(1)(c)).

The preliminary list of the business and how it is proposed to deal with it is as follows:

*****RESOLUTION**

21/1. The Conference received the Report of the Business Committee.

1.	Induction of the President and Vice-President	Representative Session
2.	Methodist Council, part 1	Mostly <i>en bloc</i>
3.	Appointment of officers of the Conference	Beginning of the Conference
4.	Evangelism and Growth strategy	The Conference
5.	Conference Arrangements	Presbyteral Session, <i>en bloc</i>
6.	Special Resolution	The Conference – 75% majority
7.	Connexional Allowances Committee	<i>En bloc</i>
8.	Guernsey	<i>En bloc</i>
9.	Jersey	<i>En bloc</i>
10.	Forces Board	<i>En bloc</i>
11.	Methodist Homes	Presentation
12.	3Generate	The Conference
13.	Unified Statement of Connexional Finances	The Conference
14.	Methodist Schools appointments	<i>En bloc</i>
15.	Law and Polity 1	<i>En bloc</i>
16.	Safeguarding Committee	<i>En bloc</i>
17.	New Room	<i>En bloc</i>
18.	Fernley Hartley Trust	<i>En bloc</i>
19.	MIST Articles of Association	<i>En bloc</i>
	Presbyteral Session Business Committee	Presbyteral Session
20.	First Report of the Conference Business Committee	The Conference
21.	Methodist Council part 2	Some <i>en bloc</i>
22.	Budget	The Conference
23.	Ecumenical Report	<i>En bloc</i>
24.	Reaffirming <i>Our Calling</i> : Oversight and Trusteeship	The Conference – some aspects to be deferred
25.	Action for Children	<i>En bloc</i>
26.	JACEI – fossil fuels and climate change	The Conference
27.	JACEI annual report	<i>En bloc</i>
28.	Joint Covenant Advocacy and Monitoring Group	<i>En bloc</i>
29.	World Methodist Council	<i>En bloc</i>
30.	Statistics for Mission	The Conference
31.	Faith and Order Committee	<i>En bloc</i>
32.	Ministry in the Methodist Church – Conference Statement	The Conference
33.	Changing Patterns of Ministry	Deferred
34.	Code of Conduct (Ministerial Covenant)	The Conference – some aspects to be deferred
35.	Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme	<i>En bloc</i>
36.	Stationing Committee	<i>En bloc</i>
37.	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	<i>En bloc</i>
38.	Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster	<i>En bloc</i>
39.	Central Finance Board	<i>En bloc</i>
40.	Law and Polity (2)	Some <i>en bloc</i>
41.	Authorisations Committee	The Conference
42.	Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion	<i>En bloc</i>

43.	Presbyters transferring out or permitted to serve another Conference or church or to serve abroad or reside abroad	Presbyteral Session
44.	Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee	Presbyteral and Representative Sessions
45.	Presbyteral transfers and reinstatements	Presbyteral Session
46.	Appointments of District Chairs	The Conference
47.	Committee Appointments	<i>En bloc</i>
48.	Appreciations	The Conference
49.	Methodist Diaconal Order General Report	<i>En bloc</i>
50.	Presbyters and deacons becoming supernumerary, returning to the active work	Presbyteral and Representative Sessions
51.	Ministers of other churches	Presbyteral and Representative Sessions
52.	Conference Diaconal Committee [to follow]	Representative Session
	Annual Inquiry	Presbyteral Session
	Adoption of the stations	Representative Session