

**Draft reply to Memorial M6 (2020)**

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Memorial M6(2020) was referred to the Council by the 2020 Conference. The Council considered it at its meeting in January 2021, through discussion in a focus group and in plenary session.

The Council now needs to consider the text of its report to be recommended to the Conference for adoption as the Conference's further reply.

A draft is shown below, which is offered in the light of the discussions in January.

**M6 Global Climate Emergency**

*The Gloucestershire (7/7) Circuit Meeting (Present 75; Voting: 74 for, 1 against), recognising that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation, and a fundamental injustice, and following the resolution of the Methodist Conference 2019 that there is a climate emergency:*

- (a) *calls upon all parts of the Methodist Church, at local church, circuit, district and connexional level, to work to achieve measurable year-on-year reductions in emissions and urgently examine what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030 in order that a plan of action can be drawn up to achieve that target;*
- (b) *calls on each District to address progress toward net zero emissions every two years.*

**Draft reply**

The Conference thanks the Gloucestershire Circuit for this memorial which was referred to the Council for a full discussion. The Conference wholeheartedly agrees and affirms that 'the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice.'

The Conference recognises this a crucial year for international climate commitments as the COP26 climate summit is held in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November. All nations will need to make new commitments that recognise the urgency of our situation. The Conference notes that alongside our partners, the Methodist Church has called on Her Majesty's Government to put in place plans to achieve net zero in a way that addresses social and economic inequalities.

In recognition of the Circuit's desire to call on all parts of the Methodist Church to work towards net zero the Conference invites Methodist churches to join with others in a one-off celebration of Climate Sunday on, or before, Sunday 5 September. The Conference affirms it is the responsibility of us all, as God's people, to respond to this emergency in all the ways that we can, and by regarding this as an integral part of our Methodist Way of Life. The Conference further affirms the call to live lightly as an integral part of our mission and as such a vital part of all our mission planning.

The Conference recognises the Circuit's desire to encourage the Church to be methodical in measuring carbon emissions. The Conference therefore directs that the Annual Property Checklist is updated to enable some measuring of progress to be achieved. Furthermore it requests of Districts that ways that enable movement towards net zero are demonstrated in all District Mission plans and that these plans are reviewed every two years.

The Conference wishes to respond to the Circuit's request to draw up a plan of action, but feels that a 'one size fits all' plan would not be beneficial. It therefore proposes the development of partnerships with others who can help us meet our target. These include:

- A Rocha, with their well-established Eco Church programme and Eco-Congregation Scotland;

- “Faith Long Term Plans” – a coalition of faith groups;
- Ecumenical partners in the Church of England, and the United Reformed Church and elsewhere;
- The Climate Coalition – a coalition of 130 organisations across the UK that are mobilising support for action at the COP26 summit.

The Conference proposes that steps are taken to ‘green’ our processes with regard to property including:

- making representations to the Listed Buildings Advisory Committee to see eco-friendly adaptations as a priority;
- ensuring that all building schemes take seriously the need to reduce carbon emissions;
- updating the requirements of quinquennials to embrace factors that could reduce carbon emissions;
- updating SO 803 (with regard to Manses) to ensure that manses become as energy efficient as possible;
- supporting Circuits in finding ways to measure and improve their buildings’ energy efficiency.

In recognition of the urgency of this emergency, the Conference agrees an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030. By setting this target we will align ourselves with the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. The Conference recognises how ambitious this target is; its achievement depends upon all parts of the Church making a significant commitment of resources. It will require substantial work to many church buildings to achieve energy use reduction. This work will rest on the decision-making of our Managing Trustees.

The final section of “Hope in God’s Future”, ‘Sending Out’, describes our response to climate change as a journey of a whole community. In setting an aspiration of net zero by 2030 we want to encourage and inspire each other as the Body of Christ to all journey together. The Conference recognises, with thanks, the voice of 3Generate for their consistent and bold lead in this area, and again thanks the Gloucestershire Circuit for this memorial.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**45/1. The Council receives the report.**

**45/2. The Council recommends this report to the Conference for adoption as its reply to Memorial M6 (2020).**