

The Work of the Faith and Order Committee 2020-2021

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Resolution	56/1. The Council receives the report.

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	The work of the Faith and Order Committee 2020-2021
Main Points	Work being brought to the Conferences of 2021 and 2022
Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)	The Faith and Order Committee reports to the Methodist Conference, and annually provides a briefer report to the Council.

1. The Faith and Order Committee is appointed by, and accountable to, the Methodist Conference. On behalf of the Conference, it helps to ensure that what the Methodist Church in Britain says and does is true to its self-understanding, mission and purpose. It therefore seeks to encourage a deepening of theological understanding, engagement with the Methodist tradition, and shared critical reflection in order to help discern Methodist perspectives and responses in all aspects of the Church's life.
2. The Committee has met four times since the 2020 Conference via video-conferencing (including twice over two days). In addition it has met once with the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission. In the light of the Covid-19 restrictions the Committee has adapted its way of working but, due to its ongoing impact, the Committee has also had to prioritise some pieces of work for the 2021 Conference and defer some other pieces of work as reported to the October Council.
3. The Committee continues to explore how it might best work with others in order to seek to stimulate theological reflection and study throughout the Church (SO 330(3)). It welcomes opportunities for collaboration and would encourage the creation of more opportunities for Methodists to confer theologically together within our oversight structures. Under SO330(10) the Faith and Order Committee has a specific role in scrutinising all matters directly concerning the faith and order of the Church presented to the Conference by other bodies. Such scrutiny requires consultation with the full committee, and often some collaborative working, and the Committee is therefore grateful for early conversations, particularly with working parties appointed by the Council or the Conference, to establish effective and constructive ways of working and reflecting as the work develops. All reports, questions and communication to the Committee should be sent in the first instance to the Secretary of the Committee.
4. **Work being brought to Conferences of 2021 and 2022**
The Faith and Order Committee reports to the Conferences of 2021 and 2022 will include the

following pieces of work:

The 2021 Conference:

Ministry in the Methodist Church report and revised Statement of the judgment of the Conference

Response to *God in Love Unites Us* and comment on the marriage service

Initial comment on the theology of online life

Interim guidance in relation to deliverance ministry

The Theology of Safeguarding

Response to the *Reaffirming Our Calling Oversight and Trusteeship* report

Holy Communion and Online Worship

The 2022 Conference:

Revision of guidance and theological reflection on deliverance ministry

The Methodist Understanding of Membership in the 21st Century

Review of criteria for authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper

*****RESOLUTION**

56/1. The Council receives the report.