

7/1 The Conference assembled at 9.15 and was led in worship by Methodist Women in Britain, Birmingham.

7/2 **SECOND REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**

7/2/1 The Committee has noted that its deliberations concerning the potential costs and/or delays to work place difficult decisions before the Conference concerning how or whether proposals which might appear to deliver desirable outcomes for many are prioritised. Questions have arisen about how work will be prioritised, and consequently which work will be delayed or cancelled.

The Committee is clear that, although SO 136A(3)(iv) states “if there are several such proposals before the committee, what priority should be given to each”, nevertheless, given that there is no available budget for any additional work, it is not appropriate to determine priorities within them.

Whether or not any additional work is determined by the Conference, it will be necessary for the Council and the Strategy and Resources Committee to review and determine priorities for the work of the Connexional Team at their autumn meetings. It may also be that the Council will be required to report to the Conference in 2022 that some work has not been completed.

More radical alternative options for the Conference could include proposing either:

1. to reduce other areas of the budget and associated work in order to accommodate new work within the overall budget, and/or
2. to amend the budget by addition, thereby determining that the District Assessment should NOT be reduced, as proposed, or may even be increased.

The Conference is also reminded that it is only asked to approve the budget for 2021/22, and budgets for subsequent years are only indicative of an anticipated strategy. Should the Conference determine that it wishes to increase the work of the Connexional Team above that anticipated by the 2021/22 budget, then the budget presented to the Conference in 2022 for 2022/23 may be higher than that currently indicated.

7/2/2 The Conference adopted as Resolution F/2:

The Conference receives the Report.

7/3 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/3/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/4 in the form:

The Conference confirms resolution 10/2 of the Conference of 2019, amended to read as follows:

The Conference affirms the following summary understanding of the principles or qualities of good relating:

- All significant relationships should be built on the example of Christ, in whom we see the supreme example of self-giving love, commitment, fidelity, loyalty, honesty, mutual respect, equality and the desire for the mutual flourishing of the people involved.
- It is through that self-giving, rather than through self-seeking, that the self flourishes and begins to experience life in all its fullness (John 10:10) (though it needs to be recognised that the universal Church’s historic emphasis on self-sacrifice has often been misunderstood and misused [e.g. by abusive partners] in a way that is destructive of the wellbeing of the ones abused [often women])

7/3/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/5.

7/4 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**

The Conference adopted Resolution 60/2.

7/5 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/5/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/6 in the form:

The Conference confirms resolution 10/3 of the Conference of 2019, amended to read as follows:

The Conference affirms the following summary understanding of cohabitation:

- The Church recognises that the love of God is present within the love of two human beings who are drawn to each other, and who enter freely into some form of life-enhancing committed relationship with each other, whether that be through informal cohabitation or a more formal commitment entered into publicly.
- As a Church we wish to celebrate that the love of God is present in these circumstances, even if that grace is not responded to or even discerned by the people concerned.
- The Church has an important calling, therefore, to point to the presence of God’s love within such relationships, and to encourage people to respond to it in the renewing and deepening (by whatever means) of their commitment.

7/5/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/7.

7/5/3 **Memorial M29**

The Conference received Memorial M29 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 924-925.

7/6 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**

7/6/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/3,

p 852, paragraph 5.1, *replacing* the second sentence with:

There have therefore been further questions about whether all presbyters will be able to affirm that they will “observe and administer” our discipline, and whether all deacons will be able to renew their ordination promise to “accept

our discipline and work together with [their] sisters and brothers in the Church".<sup>23a</sup>

adding footnote 23a: *Methodist Worship Book*, p.318; S0753(5)

7/6/2 **Memorials M32, M33, M34**

The Conference received Memorials M32, M33 and M34 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 927-931.

7/7 The Conference adjourned at 10.55.

7/8 The Conference reassembled at 11.20.

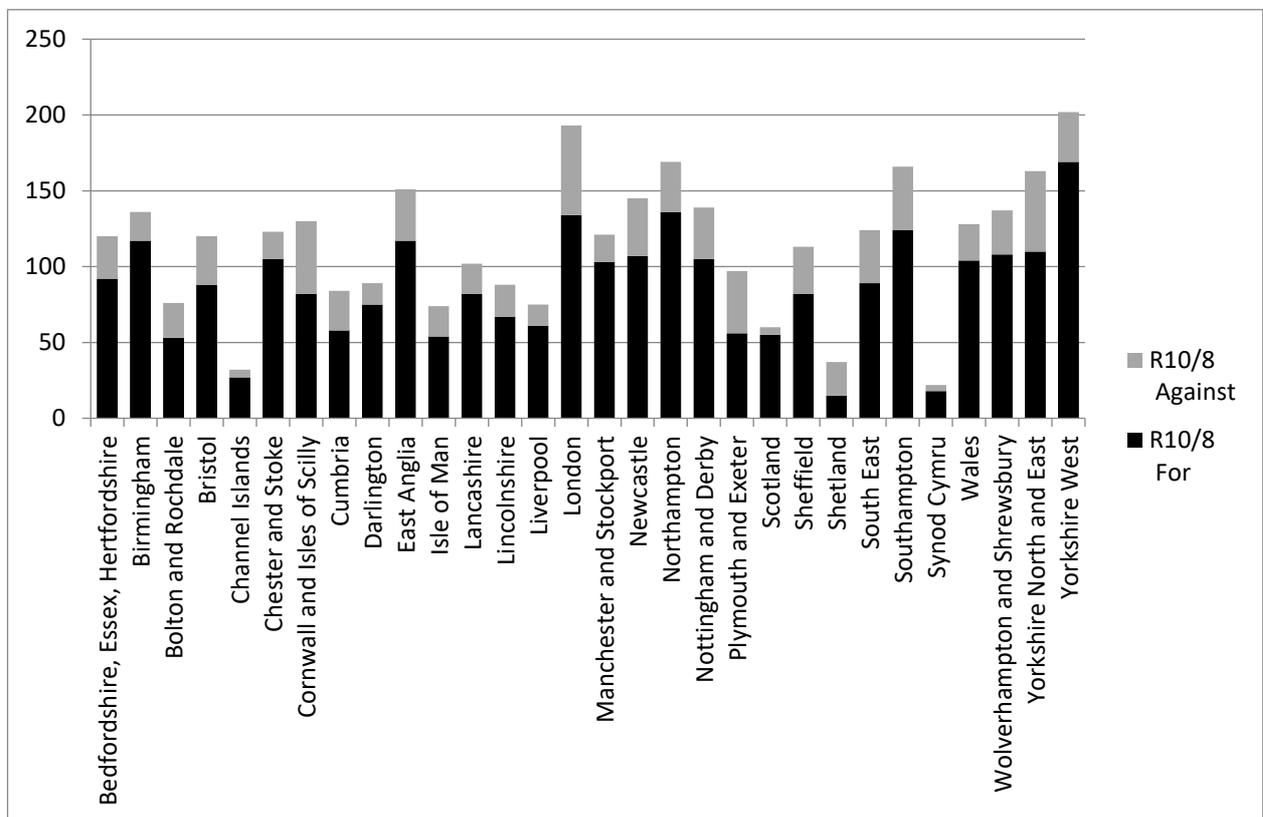
7/9 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/9/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/8:

The Conference confirms resolution 10/8 of the Conference of 2019, as originally adopted:

The Conference consents in principle to the marriage of same-sex couples on Methodist premises throughout the Connexion and by Methodist ministers, probationers or members in so far as the law of the relevant jurisdiction permits or requires and subject to compliance with such further requirements, if any, as that law imposes.

p 821, *inserting* the following graph after paragraph 86:



- 7/9/2 **Memorials M30, M31, M36**  
 The Conference received Memorials M30, M31 and M36 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 925-927 and p 934.
- 7/10 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**
- 7/10/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/4,  
 p 854, paragraph 6.2, final sentence  
*for 'referred to in 3.1 above' reading 'referred to in 4.1 above'*
- p 855, paragraph 6.5, second line  
*for 'Synodshave voted' reading 'Synods have voted'*
- p 855, paragraph 6.6, *replacing* the text with:  
 In making this recommendation the Faith and Order Committee further noted that provisional resolution 10/9 proposed changing the declaration that marriage "is a gift of God" to "marriage is given by God to be a particular channel of God's grace". If the Faith and Order Committee's recommendation is taken forward then this change is lost. The Committee notes, however, that similar changes were not proposed regarding the marriage service in the *Methodist Worship Book* and, given what has been said about the nature of the Standing Orders above, the change therefore carries comparatively little theological weight. The *Methodist Worship Book* is a text that carries some authority regarding Methodist theology and the Methodist Church therefore still affirms that marriage is a gift of God. The language of "gift of God" has therefore been retained in the new draft marriage liturgies. The Committee notes that this did not emerge as a key point in the feedback from the Synods and that if the Conference commends the new marriage liturgies for experimental use then there will be opportunity for Methodists to comment on this language during the period of consultation and before a final decision is made.
- p 855, paragraph 6.7, *replacing* the text with:  
 Although the Faith and Order Committee would recommend deleting the whole of the first sentence of the proposed SO 011A (as described in 6.5 above), it does not bring a Resolution to this effect because the particular wording has already been discussed in Local Churches and Circuits and voted on by Synods, and because there are already a number of other potential amendments before the Conference. It does, however, ask the Conference to consider one particular change. It is the view of the Committee that the word 'believes' in the Provisional Resolution is potentially misleading and it brings Resolution 60/5 to amend this word for the sake of clarity.
- 7/10/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/5.
- 7/11 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**
- 7/11/1 **Memorials M38, M39**  
 The Conference received Memorials M38 and M39 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda p 935.
- 7/11/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/9 in the form:

The Conference confirms resolution 10/9 of the Conference of 2019, amended to read as follows:

The Conference amends Standing Orders as follows:

**011A Marriage** (1) The Methodist Church believes *understands* that marriage ~~is a gift of God and that it is God's intention that a marriage should be~~ ***is given by God to be a particular channel of God's grace, and that it is in accord with God's purposes when a marriage is*** a life-long union in body, mind and spirit of ~~one man and one woman~~ ***two people who freely enter it. Within the Methodist Church this is understood in two ways: that marriage can only be between a man and a woman; that marriage can be between any two people. The Methodist Church affirms both understandings and makes provision in its Standing Orders for them.***

(2) The Methodist Church welcomes everyone, whether or not a member, who enquires about an intended marriage in any of its places of worship ***or elsewhere.***

**011B Divorce, Remarriage, Marriage of Same Sex Couples and Respect for Conscience** ~~(2)~~(1) Divorce does not of itself prevent a person being married in any Methodist place of worship ***or by Methodist ministers, probationers or members.***

~~(3)~~(2) Under no circumstances does the Conference require any person ~~authorised to conduct marriages~~ who is subject to the discipline of the Church as a minister, probationer, ***officer*** or member to officiate at ***or participate in*** the marriage of a particular couple, should it be contrary to the dictates of his or her conscience to do so.

~~(4)~~(3) ***When:***

- (i) ~~A~~ a minister, ***or*** probationer ***is stationed in a new appointment;***  
or
- (ii) ***it is proposed that a*** member ~~who is~~ ***should become*** authorised to conduct marriages

~~but who~~ ***and he or she*** for reasons of conscience will never officiate at the marriages of couples in particular circumstances, ~~shall refer such couples to an authorised colleague who is not so prevented~~ ***the person concerned shall participate in a pastoral conversation on the matter with the District Chair and the Superintendent of the relevant Circuit (if he or she is not the Superintendent). Every effort shall be made to ensure that no individual is placed under any pressure to act against the dictates of conscience.***

(4) ***Whether or not the law of the relevant jurisdiction requires that Methodist premises must be registered for same-sex marriages before such marriages can take place, no same-sex marriage may take place on Methodist premises unless the managing trustees or, if none, the trustees, have approved the use of the premises for that purpose and taken any steps which may be necessary under the applicable law.***

(5) ***A minister, probationer or member who is asked to officiate at the marriage of a mixed-sex couple in Methodist premises which are appropriately registered for the purpose (where registration is required) or***

*elsewhere but who is prevented from officiating for reasons of conscience shall refer the couple to an authorised colleague who is not so prevented.*

*(6) A minister, probationer or member who is asked to officiate at the marriage of a same-sex couple in Methodist premises which are appropriately registered for the purpose (where registration is required) or elsewhere but who is prevented from officiating for reasons of conscience shall notify the District Chair, who shall refer the couple to an authorised colleague who is not so prevented.*

*(7) A couple who seek to be married in Methodist premises which are not appropriately registered for the purpose shall be referred, if registration is required, to the person responsible for the conduct of marriages at premises which are so registered, preferably in the same circuit. If the person receiving the request is not willing for reasons of conscience to make such a reference, he or she shall so inform the District Chair, who shall make the reference in that person's place.*

*(8) The managing trustees or, if none, the trustees of any Methodist premises which are registered for the solemnisation of the marriage of same-sex couples shall ensure that the District Chair is notified of such registration.*

~~(5)~~(9) The Methodist Church opposes discrimination on the basis of **sexuality**, gender or race. Accordingly, if a couple is seeking to be married in a Methodist place of worship **or elsewhere** no objection to the performance by a particular minister, probationer, **officer** or member of any duty in respect of their proposed marriage shall be entertained on such a ground. No minister, probationer, **officer** or member shall perform the relevant duty or duties in place of the other person concerned or otherwise assist the couple to make the objection effective.

p 841, Scotland Synod Resolution

adding underlining for the following words:

SO 011A(2): 'or elsewhere'

SO 011B(1): 'or by Methodist ministers, probationers or members'

SO 011B(5): 'or elsewhere'

SO 011B(6): 'or elsewhere'

SO 011B(10): 'or elsewhere'

7/12 The Conference adjourned at 13.00.

7/13 The Conference reassembled at 13.45.

7/14 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**

7/14/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/6.

7/14/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/7,

*amending the first sentence to read:*

The Conference amends paragraphs G2 and G3 of the Guidance set out in resolution 10/7 of the Conference of 2019 as follows:

7/15 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/15/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/10 in the form:

The Conference confirms resolution 10/7 of the Conference of 2019, amended to read as follows:

The Conference adopts the *Guidance on the Understanding of Marriage* set out below and directs that it be included in the Guidance section of *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*:

- G1 The Methodist Church welcomes everyone, whether or not a member, who enquires about an intended marriage in any of its places of worship or elsewhere. It looks for an openness to God in them, not necessarily a developed understanding of the Christian faith.
- G2 Legally, marriage is a contractual relationship entered into by two people who make solemn vows and commitments to each other. In the understanding of the Methodist Church, marriage encompasses that but is also deeper and richer. The Methodist Church understands that marriage is a covenant relationship between two people, within God's covenant of love with them. Through it, they may experience, explore and express God's gracious love.
- G3 The Methodist Church understands that marriage is an exclusive relationship, freely entered into with a life-long intention of uniting two people in body, heart, mind and soul in ways that are appropriate to each partner. In it, God's Spirit enables both partners to know the security of love and care, bringing to each other comfort and companionship, enrichment and encouragement, tenderness and trust. Through such marriage children may be nurtured, family life strengthened, and human society enriched.
- G4 The Methodist Church recognises that amongst its members different views are held about the interpretation of the Bible and Christian tradition as to whether those being married may be any two people, or may only be a woman and a man. The Methodist Church has decided to respect and make practical provisions for both positions.
- G5 A marriage service may only be conducted in a Methodist place of worship or elsewhere when it can be shown that the requirements of the legislation in the appropriate jurisdiction regarding the registration of buildings and personnel have been met and that the couple have complied with the requirements of such legislation which are their responsibility. Where a service of blessing of a marriage previously solemnised is requested, the person conducting the service must satisfy himself or herself that the couple are legally married.
- G6 Where there is a desire to use places of worship for marriage services or for services of blessing for a marriage previously solemnised, the managing trustees of those premises should actively consider whether they wish to do so solely for marriages of mixed-sex couples, or for marriages of same-sex couples as well as mixed-sex couples. The managing trustees should reconsider the question of the use of the place of worship for marriage services or services of blessing every five years or sooner.

G7 Where the managing trustees wish to use a place of worship for marriage services, and the legislation of the relevant jurisdiction requires church buildings or personnel to be registered or authorised for the solemnisation of marriages, the managing trustees should take the relevant steps to comply.

7/15/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/11.

7/16 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**

The Conference adopted Resolution 60/8.

7/17 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/17/1 **Memorials M35, M37**

The Conference received Memorials M35 and M37 and adopted as its replies those recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorials and the replies appearing on Agenda pp 931-934.

7/17/2 The Conference adopted Resolutions 59/12, 59/13, 59/14A, 59/14B and 59/14C.

7/17/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 59/14D:

The Conference further resolves and directs that:

(a) such steps (if any) shall be taken by such bodies or persons as may be required by the relevant legislation of any other jurisdiction forming part of the Methodist Church in Britain in order to make it legally possible for a same-sex marriage to be solemnised on Methodist premises within that jurisdiction if the managing trustees or, if none, the trustees of those premises so permit and for a Methodist minister to officiate at a same-sex marriage;

(b) from 1 September 2021 or such later date as all relevant legal requirements have been satisfied (including the grant of permission by the managing or other trustees) a same-sex marriage may be solemnised on Methodist premises within such a jurisdiction.

7/18 **60. THE RESPONSE OF THE FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE TO THE GOD IN LOVE UNITES US REPORT (continued)**

7/18/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/9,

p 858, paragraph 8.1, final line:  
*for 'sections 8 and 9 below' reading 'sections 9 and 10 below'*

p 872, paragraph 22, second line:  
*for 'in her/his own words' reading 'in her/his/their own words'*

p 884, paragraph 17, second line:  
*for 'in her/his own words' reading 'in her/his/their own words'*

7/18/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/10.

7/18/3 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/11 in the form:

The Conference directs that the *Methodist Worship Book* is amended as set out in Section 9.3 of this Report.

7/18/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/12, *noting* the correction to p 872 above.

7/18/5 The Conference adopted Resolution 60/13, *noting* the correction to p 884 above.

7/18/6 **Memorial M43**

The Conference received Memorial M43 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda p 939,

p 939, final sentence of the reply:  
*for* the 1992 statement  
*reading* the 1992 Conference statement 'A Christian Understanding of Family Life, the Single Person and Marriage'

7/19 **59. MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS: PROVISIONAL RESOLUTIONS (continued)**

7/19/1 The Conference adopted Resolution 59/15.

7/19/2 **Memorial M40**

The Conference received Memorial M40 and adopted as its reply that recommended by the Memorials Committee, the Memorial and the reply appearing on Agenda pp 935-936.

7/19/3 The Conference stood in silence and was led in prayer.

7/20 **DESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Revd Graham Thompson was designated for appointment as President of the Conference of 2022.

7/21 **DESIGNATION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE**

Mr Anthony Boateng was designated for appointment as Vice-President of the Conference of 2022.

7/22 **24. JOINT COVENANT ADVOCACY AND MONITORING GROUP**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 24/1, 24/2, 24/3 and 24/4.

7/23 **15. SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE**

The Conference adopted Resolution 15/1.

7/24 **57. METHODIST MINISTERS' HOUSING SOCIETY (MMHS)**

7/24/1 The Conference received a presentation by MMHS.

7/24/2 The Conference adopted Resolution 57/1.

7/24/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 57/2:

The Conference asks for a collaborative conversation between the Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme, MMHS, the Secretary of the Conference, the Chair of the CAC and any other parties to consider how the Covenantal relationship between the Church and its retired ministers (and widowed spouses) can be

expressed fully and appropriately in the housing of supernumeraries and to bring recommendations to the Council.

7/24/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution 57/3:

The Conference encourages the MMHS Board to consider an income bracketed scheme which safeguards those on very low household incomes and asks those with significantly more generous household incomes to meet the much higher rates which are nearer current market values.

7/25 The Conference adjourned at 16.21.

7/26 The Conference reassembled at 16.50.

7/27 **27. THE THEOLOGY OF SAFEGUARDING**

7/27/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 27/1, 27/2 and 27/3.

7/27/2 **Notice of Motion 2021/106: Theology of Safeguarding**

The Conference thanks the Faith and Order Committee for the report on the theology of safeguarding. However, the Conference regrets that the report adopts a paradigm of male abuser/female survivor and neglects the experiences of male survivors and LGBTQ+ survivors. It is important in doing this kind of work to adopt an intersectional approach recognising the diversity and complexity of experience.

7/27/3 The Conference adopted as Resolution 27/3A:

The Conference directs that the issues raised in Notice of Motion 106 be taken fully into account and reflected in the resources produced and that male and LGBTQ+ survivors be engaged in their development.

7/27/4 The Conference adopted Resolution 27/4.

7/28 **DAILY RECORD**

7/28/1 The Daily Record for Tuesday 29 June was presented, taken as read, and adopted.

7/28/2 The Written Portion of the Daily Record of the Representative Session was presented in headings only and adopted.

7/29 **Notice of Motion 2021/201: Methodist Homes (MHA)**

7/29/1 The Conference acknowledges and celebrates Methodist Homes' (MHA) contribution to the care of older people during the pandemic. MHA delivers high quality care homes, retirement living and community services to enable people to live later life well. From the outset of the pandemic, MHA was affected by staff and resident illnesses, and very sadly a significant number of deaths. At this time of crisis, the charity was having to secure its own personal protective equipment (PPE) for its staff, fight for testing for residents and staff, and deal with the debacle around people being sent out from hospitals to care homes without testing. Sadly, the pandemic was often seen through the prism of graphs and numbers but not so at MHA. The staff rose to the challenge, becoming friends and family of the residents, providing comfort and support during the darkest periods when families were not able to visit. The role played by MHA chaplains supporting residents, their relatives and staff was particularly valued. In keeping with good employment practices MHA has instituted a programme of wellbeing for staff who have had to live through the most harrowing experiences, who comforted residents who were suffering and dying.

The Conference welcomes the action of MHA in speaking out and publicising the enormity of the challenges faced by care providers, and the failure of Government to offer adequate support and protection.

The Conference notes that the charity continues to speak out, as a voice for the care sector, for the long-promised changes to the social care system and has launched its campaign #FixCareForAll ([www.mha.org.uk/action](http://www.mha.org.uk/action)) based on a five-point plan.

1. A new fully resourced system that ensures a fair price for care.
2. A national workforce strategy that values people and supports the recruitment, retention and development of staff.
3. Transparency and accountability to ensure investment in the sector is spent on enhancing the quality of care, delivered through financial regulation.
4. Models of care that are co-produced and co-designed with older people and the sector.
5. Seamless pathways and collaboration between health and social care, focused on holistic care when and in the way people need it.

The Conference urges the Methodist people to hold MHA in prayer and support its campaign by writing to their MPs and asks that the President and the Vice-President write in support of the MHA campaign to the Prime Minister.

7/29/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

7/30 **Notice of Motion 2021/202: Myanmar**

7/30/1 The Conference expresses its alarm and dismay at the violence in Myanmar being perpetrated by the military against its own citizens. We grieve with those whose loved ones have been killed or injured and those who have lost their homes, villages, churches, and livelihoods. We express our deep concern for those who live daily with fear, and we share their anxiety over the potential for wider civil conflict.

We note the correspondence of the Presidency to our partners in the region immediately after the military takeover assuring them of our prayers. We ask Methodists and others to continue in fervent prayer for a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict and a return to stability under a truly representative government. We continue to pray for those working for peace and for wise and effective responses on the part of ASEAN states and the international community. We encourage our congregations to make efforts to keep themselves and their communities informed of the situation.

7/30/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

7/31 **Notice of Motion 2021/203: Foreign Aid**

7/31/1 The Conference notes with concern the UK Government's cut to the foreign aid budget from 0.7% to 0.5% of Gross National Income. As a justice-seeking church, we believe that it is right that richer nations financially support initiatives to tackle global poverty, address injustices, and encourage sustainable development. Methodists were highly active in the 2005 *Make Poverty History* campaign and the Conference is disappointed that its aims still have not been adequately met. COVID-19 has highlighted the world's inequalities and therefore this is not the time for the government to be cutting an aid programme which has in previous years been assessed to be of high quality.

Under the UK Government's plans, overseas aid spending has been reduced from 0.7% to 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI), meaning the international development budget has fallen by around a third, from £15.2 billion in 2019 to around £10 billion in 2021. The 0.7% target had been met every year since 2013, enshrined in law since 2015, and was a commitment of all the main political parties at the last General Election. As a justice-seeking church we believe that this is simply inappropriate and Christians must speak out about this.

The World Health Organisation has claimed that this budget cut will put the poorest countries at risk of neglected tropical diseases with tens of thousands likely to die as a result.

The Conference thanks the Revd Richard Teal and Mrs Carolyn Lawrence for signing letters on our behalf on this, and for the work of JPIT on this and many issues.

It resolves:

1. That a letter be sent from the Conference to the Prime Minister and to the Foreign Secretary requesting an urgent reversal of this policy on the grounds of justice and human rights.
2. That all Methodist societies be requested to contact their MPs as a body.
3. That all Methodist members are encouraged to write to their MPs to oppose these cuts. (The latest information and a template letter are offered at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/aid](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/aid).)

7/31/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

7/32 **Notice of Motion 2021/204: Immigration**

7/32/1 The Sovereign Borders Bill will be brought to the UK Parliament in July 2021, the UK Government having released their New Plan for Immigration which introduces a new 'two-tier' system for how we treat people fleeing persecution and conflict. Many of the measures outlined risk creating more injustices in the UK's asylum system which will increase the trauma and pain experienced by asylum seekers attempting to reach safety in the UK.

They also undermine our obligations under international law. July 2021 will mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention, which specified the rights of refugees and the responsibilities of governments to offer sanctuary. However, the UK Government's proposals are at risk of contradicting the important standards set by the UN Refugee Convention. Ahead of the Convention's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary next month, it is more important than ever that we recognise and champion the rights and dignity of people fleeing persecution and conflict.

The Methodist Church joined "Together with Refugees" (<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk>) in May 2021. As part of this new coalition, we have committed to recognise that how we treat refugees reflects who we are. The hostility with which the government's new plans propose to treat refugees contradicts our commitment to uphold the dignity of all people. As a Church which is committed to a biblical imperative of welcoming the stranger, we cannot tolerate policies which risk creating conditions which contradict this calling. As a Church which seeks to offer sanctuary, witness to God's love and stand for justice, we must speak up for human dignity and flourishing.

The Conference:

- (i) Requests the President and Vice-President to write to the Home Secretary to highlight the potential injustices of the two-tier system, the obligations under international law and the need for human dignity and flourishing to be upheld.
- (ii) Commends the initiatives being progressed by “Together with Refugees” and the Joint Public Issues Team.
- (iii) Encourages churches, circuits and districts to engage with local MPs on these issues as the Sovereign Borders Bill makes its way through Parliament.

7/32/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

7/33 **Notice of Motion 2021/205: COP26**

7/33/1 On 14 June 2021 the Young Christian Climate Network’s relay to COP26 left the G7 Meeting in Cornwall to start its journey to Glasgow where COP26 is taking place in November 2021.

COP26 workers based all over the world (including those based in the UK – James Appleby and Mollie Pugmire) have done great work in bringing issues of climate justice to the attention of governments and the media in the run-up to the event.

There is a strong call from young people to engage with climate justice and to address the issue of loss and damage, not least from the Youth President and 3Generate representatives, with climate change and environmental stewardship always featuring heavily in each year’s gathering.

The Conference:

- (i) asks the President and Vice-President to write to the President of COP26 calling on COP to make bold decisions and to listen to the voices of young generations;
- (ii) commends the work of the COP26 workers;
- (iii) sends a greeting and message of support to the Young Christian Climate Network’s relay to COP26;
- (iv) encourages all churches, circuits and districts to engage with COP26 before, during and after the event including holding a Climate Sunday service ahead of COP26.

7/33/2 The Conference adopted the Motion.

7/34 **25. METHODIST COUNCIL, PART 2, Section L**

7/34/1 The Conference adopted Resolutions 25/2 and 25/3,

p 247

**335 Global Relationships Committee**

*adding a new clause after (2):*

***(2A) The Global Relationships Committee shall oversee the World Mission Fund.***

*replacing ‘A new SO 432A will be brought on the Order Paper’ with:*  
***432A Mission in Britain Fund Allocation The District may from time to time receive a funding allocation from the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund to be used by a Local Church, Circuit or the District only for purposes specified in the relevant strategy approved by the Conference from time to time.***

p 249, 1002A World Mission Fund Grants Committee

replacing clause (4) with:

**(4) The committee shall administer the allocation of grants from the Methodist World Mission Fund.**

replacing clause (5) with:

**(5) The committee shall account at least annually to the Global Relationships Committee for its administration of grants from the fund.**

7/35 **29. 3GENERATE 2020 – METHODIST CHILDREN AND YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

The Conference adopted Resolutions 29/1, 29/2, 29/3 and 29/4.

7/36 The Conference shared in worship and adjourned at 18.47.

7/37 **LETTERS**

7/37/1 A letter of concern was written in the name of the Conference to Mr Daoud Nassar and his family at the Tent of Nations, Bethlehem.