

Notice of Motion 2018/101: Mission and Ministry in Covenant – diaconal ministry

The Faith and Order report on Mission and Ministry in Covenant provides an update on work relating to the proposals and identifies concerns and further work required. It has, however, been noted that the report does not mention the progress around the inter-changeability of deacons and it does not reflect the concerns raised at 2017 Conference on the status of deacons in this process. The Conference therefore seeks some clarification and assurances.

- First, the Conference seeks clarification as to the current status of conversations with the Church of England around the interchangeability of deacons.
- Secondly, the Conference directs that the interchangeability of deacons is given as high a regard as presbyters in future conversations with the Church of England to reflect the fact that the Methodist Church in Britain has two equal orders of ordained ministry.
- Finally, the Conference adopts an additional resolution as follows:

33/3. The Conference further directs the Faith and Order Committee to include progress on work relating to the interchangeability of deacons in any further reports.

Proposed: Deacon Tracey J Hume

Seconded: The Revd Sally A Ratcliffe

Budgetary implications

No financial implications.

Notice of Motion 2018/102: Joint work on ministry

In the light of the Authorisations Committee's concern about the interpretation of Conference decisions regarding lay employees being granted authorisations, an issue which is part of the changing patterns of ministry addressed in the Faith and Order report on Ministry in the Methodist Church (Agenda pp. 406-421), and to ensure that concern is adequately addressed, Resolution 32/5 is amended to read:

32/5. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to oversee joint work by the Faith and Order, Ministries, and Stationing committees to explore the aspects of changing patterns of ministry identified in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6 of this report (particularly revisiting Releasing Ministers for Ministry, itinerancy and stationing, local pastoral ministry, and employed lay ministry), and, in consultation with the Authorisations Committee, to explore issues regarding lay employees being granted authorisations to preside at the Lord's Supper, and to report on such joint work to the 2020 Conference.

Proposed: The Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn

Seconded: The Revd Bruce D Thompson

Budgetary implications

As the existing proposal already asks for a substantial piece of work to be done, and this just ensures the inclusion of one particular piece of business, it will have minimal impact on budgets.