

Notice of Motion 2018/103: Resolution 21/25

The Conference amends resolution 21/25 as follows:

*****RESOLUTION**

21/25. The Conference amends Standing Order 210(2)(a) as follows:

The person appointed under head (iv) of clause (i) above shall be nominated by their respective Synods for a period of four years, *having regard to concerns for equality, diversity and inclusion*, being in each case a person who would be entitled under Standing Order 417(i) to be a representative of that District to the Conference.

Proposed: Ms Sally Rush

Seconded: Mr Anthony Boateng

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Dr Anne Hollows
2. Mrs Anna Malnutt
3. The Revd Elizabeth O Osei
4. Deacon Tracey J Hume

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/104: Resolution 21/12

The Conference notes that the proposed revision to SO 563(3)(iii) requires local preachers “to regularly review their preaching.....” (page 219) while paragraph 1.3 of the Ministries Committee Business (page 202) recommends “a peer review of their ministry...” The Conference believes that this latter is a more appropriate term, thereby including the leading of worship alongside preaching, together with other aspects of local preachers’ ministry covered by SO 563.

The Conference therefore substitutes the word “ministry” for the word “preaching” in resolution 21/12, SO 563(3)(iii).

Proposed: Mr Michael J Noble

Seconded: Mr Colin Ride

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/105: Alternative reply to Memorial M26

The Conference thanks the Lincolnshire District Synod for its memorial. It commends the continuing work of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) in its work on promoting conversation and notes the award of a connexional grant to CCJ earlier this year for a project entitled “Listening and learning together”, aimed at promoting dialogue on difficult issues.

According to the Community Security Trust, 1,382 anti-Semitic incidents were recorded nationally in 2017. The Conference deplores all such attacks and absolutely condemns anti-Semitism as evil and wrong.

In accepting the Memorial and noting the definition of anti-Semitism that the EDI toolkit provides, and the context and guidance accompanying it, the Conference also joins with the Home Affairs Select Committee report of October 2016 in emphasising that “it is not antisemitic to criticise the Government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.” As the EDI Toolkit expresses, the actions of the Government of Israel should be judged consistently with those of other nations and the political actions of a Government should not be attributed to the Jewish people or faith. The Toolkit further encourages Christians, together with Jews and people of neither faith, to consider how to promote understanding, community cohesion and peace between different communities.

The Conference welcomes informed debate on the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians in order to encourage a just peace for all.

The Conference reiterates its opposition to anti-Semitism and encourages the continuing use of the EDI Toolkit (<http://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/guidance-for-churches/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/edi-toolkit/>) based as it is on the principle that all humankind is made in God’s image, and therefore worthy of dignity and respect.

Proposed: Dr Stephen Leah

Seconded: Dr Anne Hollows

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Peter E Barber
2. Mr Alister McClure
3. The Revd M Ruth Parry
4. The Revd John D Howard

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/106: M2

The Conference notes the significant work that has been done through the training review group and the implications of that work in the wider life of the Connexion. Noting the proposed reply to M2 and Recommendation 10 of the Training Review report (Methodist Council Part 2), the Conference believes that further work should be undertaken in relation to the delivery of training in a local context.

In the response to Memorial M2 “The Conference therefore accepts the second part of the memorial and directs the Ministries Committee to report to the Council in 2019 on the progress that has been made [in relation to self-supporting ministry]”. Similarly, the Ministry in the Methodist Church report speaks of a desire to reconsider aspects of the ‘Releasing Ministers for Ministry’ report and a renewed desire for exploring routes into self-supporting ministry.

The discussion document before the Conference entitled ‘Reaffirming *Our Calling*’ highlights the issues of “low acceptance of candidate numbers” and “ordained ministry being spread thinner and thinner”. One priority set by the report is stated as “grow[ing] the number, variety and breadth of vocations”. Within the document, ensuring “that there are sufficient ministers and lay leaders” is seen as a key area of work for the Church, in which self-supporting ministers could have a significant impact.

The Conference therefore replies to Memorial M2 in the form of the draft but replacing the second paragraph:

“The Conference therefore declines the first of the requests in this memorial but refers the question to the Ministries Committee to be part of its continuing work on the response to the recommendations of the Review of Training” with: “The Conference accepts the first of the requests and directs the Ministries Committee to consider a possible pilot or pilots for training on local common award scheme courses, and how such training may be integrated with the Queen’s Connexional Course.”

Proposed: The Revd Richard J Teal

Seconded: The Revd Stephen J Radford

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. Deacon Debbie D E Harkness
2. The Revd Steven J Wild
3. The Revd Mark F Pengelly
4. The Revd Bruce D Thompson

Budgetary implications

There will be as yet unquantifiable costs of engaging with institutions plus additional staff costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/107: Connexional Allowances Committee

The Conference warmly welcomes the report of the Connexional Allowances Committee and is particularly grateful for the care taken by the working party in exploring the challenges of island ministry and proposing practical solutions.

Over recent years there has been an increasing amount of care taken through the stationing matching process to ensure that those stationed to the islands are fully informed of the advantages and disadvantages of these appointments. During that time a number of ministers with young families have welcomed their appointments and are thriving in their ministries. The short-term measures proposed in this report will help to bridge the gap for them.

The Conference is concerned, however, that some of the wording in section 4 of the report may lead to a limiting of the itinerancy principle in our stationing of ministers in the future, with particular reference to those with young families, and the Conference amends the report as follows:

1. In 4.26 for the words “in certain extreme circumstances it is not always 100% achievable”

substitute “in certain extreme circumstances it may be necessary to make particular provisions in order to achieve this.”

2. In 4.33 for the words “recommends that the Stationing Committee reviews how the principle of ministerial itinerancy can be realistically sustained in the long term in the light of the practical and financial constraints the working party has exposed.”

substitute “recommends that the Stationing Committee reviews how the principle of ministerial itinerancy can be safeguarded in the long term and what measures will need to be put in place in order to deal with the practical and financial constraints the working party has exposed.”

Proposed: The Revd Richard Hall

Seconded: The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/108: To amend Resolution 14/10, page 135

The Conference amends draft SO 231A(2)(i) by the deletion of, “who shall be a Chair of District”.

Proposed: Prof Peter D Howdle

Seconded: Ms Gillian M Dascombe

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Ian S Rutherford
2. Mrs Anne Vautrey
3. Dr Stephen Leah
4. The Revd M Ruth Parry

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/109: Church Stewards and Lay Leadership

The Conference notes that Part C, Section 3.3 of the Ministry in the Methodist Church report contains some reflections on the role of church stewards but does not constitute a review of the specific roles of church stewards as requested by M8 (2014).

The Memorial made this request because, in many churches, some duties defined in SO 634 are no longer carried out by church stewards, there being alternative means of fulfilling them. Such churches are thus operating in breach of standing orders. Additionally, when church stewards are being trained in their roles and responsibilities it is helpful to have standing orders that are flexible enough to be useful in the training.

The Conference therefore directs the Ministries Committee to conduct a review of standing orders pertaining to church stewards and to bring any proposed amendments to the Conference of 2019.

Proposed: Mrs Ruth E Pickles

Seconded: Mr Ian C White

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

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| 1. Dr Geoffrey Dickinson | 5. Dr B Jill Barber |
| 2. The Revd Ashley R Cooper | 6. Mr John Cooper |
| 3. The Revd Simon C Sutcliffe | 7. Mrs Heather Staniland |
| 4. Deacon Eunice Attwood | 8. The Revd Peter E Barber |

Budgetary implications

This is a substantial piece of work utilising significant staff time with potential cancellation or delay of work.

Notice of Motion 2018/110: Memorial M27

The Conference adds the following paragraph to the proposed reply to M27:

The Conference encourages all Conference representatives, and in particular, future Conference Arrangements Teams to take conscious practical steps to reduce the use of plastic and creation of waste. It encourages everyone to think reduce, reuse, recycle.

Proposed: Ms Gillian Womersley

Seconded: Mrs Tracy J Shaw

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Janet I Pybon
2. Mr John Spencer
3. Dr B Jill Barber
4. The Revd Paul H Davis

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/111: Memorial M10

Amend the reply to Memorial M10, replacing the third paragraph with:

The Conference recognises that in practice often only the presbyter in pastoral charge is in attendance, with other presbyters attending at the specific request of a colleague or a Superintendent exercising their right to attend, not always in the chair.

Recognising that the draft code of conduct is currently in a period of consultation, the Conference directs the Methodist Council to be aware of the impact under 'leadership and collaboration' in the 'functioning' column:

All ministers should (as set out in Standing Orders or as required in order to implement them):

- Attend and contribute to the meetings of which they are members.

The Conference is concerned that presbyters should not be further tied up in meetings, and directs that amendments to Standing Orders are considered. This consideration should include exploration of whether further amendments to Standing Order 610(4) are required.

The Conference therefore declines the memorial, but directs the Council to consider the issues raised.

Proposed: The Revd Nathan S Falla

Seconded: Mrs Ruby Beech

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Karen Beecham
2. The Revd Ann L Lett
3. The Revd Rachel J Wood
4. Mrs Beatrice M Cloke