

Amended Notice of Motion 2018/201: Models of trusteeship

The Conference, mindful that the Circuit is the primary unit of mission policy and has a particular responsibility to ensure the faithful deployment of resources, directs the Methodist Council to **explore alternative** ~~undertake a review of~~ models of managing trusteeship and bring to the Conference no later than in 2020 proposals that would enable **other bodies** ~~the Circuit Meeting~~ to more easily hold trusteeship of Local Churches, **after due process**.

Proposed: The Revd Dr Keith R Albans

Seconded: The Revd Beverly Hollings

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The Revd Andrew W Fyall | 5. The Revd Dr Iain M Ballard |
| 2. The Revd Thomas J Osborne | 6. The Revd Stuart Earl |
| 3. The Revd Gilliam M Newton | 7. The Revd Julia Skitt |
| 4. The Revd Ruth Parry | 8. Dr Stephen Leah |

Budgetary implications

Substantial additional piece of work utilising significant staff time with consequent cancellation or delay of other work.

Notice of Motion 2018/202: Universal Credit

In light of the recent National Audit Office Report (15th June 2018) on the failings of the Universal Credit Benefit system, of the Methodist Church's renewed emphasis on *Our Calling*, the resolutions of the 3Generate report regarding Districts and individuals acting on injustice and the Vice-President's Call to Action on Injustice, the Conference:

- Directs the Methodist Council to continue to lobby Parliament about the injustices caused by the Universal Credit System.
- Encourages Local Churches and individuals to challenge these injustices.
- Directs the Methodist Council to provide resources to help Local Churches to engage with this issue including writing to their MP.
- Mandates the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference to write a letter on behalf of the Conference to the Department of Work and Pensions which demands the cessation of the roll out of Universal Credit and an independent commission into the effects of the system (as recommended in the JPIT briefing June 2018).

Proposed: Deacon Tracey J Hume

Seconded: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Revd Inderjit S Bhogal | 5. Ms Sally Rush |
| 2. Deacon Joy M Everingham | 6. Deacon Marilyn O S Slowe |
| 3. The Revd Anthony J Clowes | 7. Mr James Patterson |
| 4. Mr Adam Wilkinson | 8. The Revd Peter E Barber |

Budgetary implications

Additional work and costs will be incurred by the Council to cover this work.

Notice of Motion 2018/203: 'Direction of travel'

The Conference acknowledges the disappointment of many Methodists – LGBT+ and others – that no draft updated statement on marriage and relationships could be brought this year. It recognises that this continues to be a source of frustration and pain to people in different parts of the Church, and will be seen as a further rejection of their relationships.

It has become clear over the last twenty-five years of debate, discussion and consultation that the Methodist people hold contradictory convictions over the theology of marriage and relationships and that no one position holds the confidence of the vast majority. The Conference re-affirms its previous decisions which seek to allow people of significant different perspectives to remain together in fellowship in the one Body of Christ.

Given the difficulties that the current Task Group has faced, the Conference now wishes to offer guidance about the direction of travel it seeks for the Methodist Church. The Conference, therefore,

- i) reiterates the Guidance on Requests for Services in Book VII Part 10 of CPD and affirms that this explicitly allows for Local Churches to allow their premises to be used to conduct public thanksgivings for same-sex couples who have solemnised a civil marriage or partnership, presided over by an appropriate minister, probationer or member.
- ii) directs the Task Group to ensure that proposals are brought before the Conference on a way forward that is consistent with the existing commitment to live with contradictory convictions, namely:
 - a) People with contradictory convictions to continue in fellowship and dialogue together;
 - b) Those who feel called by God to solemnise same sex marriages to do so;
 - c) Protection for ministers, probationers, members and churches prevented by conscience from participation in such services;
 - d) The Conference to receive reports on emerging practice which will inform ongoing theological reflection.

Proposed: Mr Alister McClure

Seconded: Ms Ruby Beech

(Signed by 4 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Mark Rowland
2. Mr Matthew Collins
3. Deacon Joy M Everingham
4. Ms Sally Rush

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/204: Trans Stakeholder Group

The Conference of 2016 directed the Methodist Council 'to ensure that work be progressed to identify the key issues for the Methodist Church to consider in order to ensure that people who are intersex or transgender are included in the life of the Church.'

The Conference recognises the vital importance of the work and that it is done well and resourced appropriately. It further notes the ongoing work on a relevant module of the EDI

Toolkit in this area. Whilst there are possible implications for marriage and relationships, it is a distinctive piece of work that should be treated as such. It therefore directs:

- That the EDI trans stakeholder group be expanded by the Methodist Council, not later than its October 2018 meeting, so that it has members who identify as transgender, as well as others with relevant knowledge and expertise of transgender identity and gender diversity;
- That this group shall work with the EDI Committee to:
 - (i) Complete the EDI Toolkit module;
 - (ii) Bring a full report to the Conference, not later than 2021.
- That the particular focus of this work shall be the consideration of pastoral good practice to ensure the welfare of trans, intersex and non-binary people, the pastoral and liturgical issues relating to transition, the use of appropriate language in CPD and other connexional documents, and theological reflection on the unique contribution trans and intersex people can and do make to the life of the Church.

Proposed: Ms Sally Rush

Seconded: Deacon Joy M Everingham

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Mr Timothy C Annan
2. Mr Matthew Collins
3. Mr Alister McClure
4. The Revd Helen E Jenkins
5. The Revd Stephen P Ingrouille
6. Miss Jasmine J Roberts
7. Miss Emily Roe
8. Deacon Jonathan Miller

Budgetary implications

A significant piece of work incurring additional travel costs of enlarging the group and writing the report including time of the Connexional Team.

Notice of Motion 2018/205: Stationing Matching

The Conference directs the Stationing Committee to consider:

- (a) how circuit profiles offered into the stationing matching process might be scrutinised so that those accepted for the process meet the needs of the wider Connexion, as well as those of the Circuit concerned.
- (b) how the broader stationing issues that the Methodist Church is currently facing might be tackled - in particular, the funding of ministerial appointments and the needs of the most deprived parts of the Connexion, and report to the Conference of 2019.

The Conference further directs the Methodist Council to work with the Stationing Committee in consideration of part (b) so as to ensure coherence with the work being undertaken on a Connexional Financial Strategy.

Background

The number of circuit stationing profiles for ministers submitted to the Stationing Matching Group now significantly exceeds the number of ministers available to be matched to an appointment. This is making the work of the Stationing Matching Group challenging and demanding, as it seeks to deploy ministerial resources fairly across the Connexion.

Proposed: The Revd Canon Graham Thompson

Seconded: Mrs Caroline Stead

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Canon Helen D Cameron
2. The Revd John Hellyer
3. The Revd Dr David P Easton
4. Deacon Karen McBride
5. Mrs Biddy Bishop
6. Ms Jennifer Jackson
7. The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson
8. Ms Judith James

Budgetary implications

No additional costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/206: Homelessness

The large rise in the number of men and women sleeping rough for seven years in a row and 169% since 2010 is shocking and a scandal.

The figures expose the worst pain afflicted by the housing crisis in the UK. We have failed as a society when so many people are forced to sleep rough. However, they are not alone as the scourge of homelessness extends far beyond our streets. Hidden away in emergency B&Bs, temporary bedsits and on friends' sofas are thousands of other homeless people, including families with children.

The Government must be urged to accelerate its commitment to eliminate rough sleeping and to increase its support for rough sleepers with the most complex needs.

Further, local authorities need to be given the powers and funding to adapt welfare reforms and begin building affordable homes again.

In Greater Manchester, a Homelessness Action Network has been established which sees the Faith Sector involved together with Public, Business, Voluntary and Community Sector partners and people with lived experience in a "whole society approach" to the issue, leading amongst other things to the preparation of cross-sector and co-produced alternative housing models.

In response to this issue, the Conference directs that

- (i) A letter be sent by the President and the Vice-President of the Conference to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing the Conference's deep concerns at the sharp increase in rough sleeping and homelessness in the UK, requesting details of the actions being undertaken and the funding streams being made available to address the issue and the causes and urging an acceleration of the target dates and a significant increase in support.
- (ii) Evidence be gathered from the Districts of the various responses that Methodist Churches and Methodist people are making on the ground across the connexion in the areas of reduction, respite, recovery and reconnection and a composite report be made available in time for Spring Synods as a focus for discussion.
- (iii) The work being undertaken in Greater Manchester to produce alternative housing models be shared via the Joint Public Issues Team to inform and to enable the models to be operated in other parts of the UK.

Proposed: The Revd Ian S Rutherford

Seconded: The Revd Rachel E Parkinson

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Deacon Jennifer A J Jones
2. Mr John Cooper
3. The Revd Julia Skitt
4. The Revd David I H Hardman

5. Deacon Tracey J Hume
6. Dr Anne Hollows

7. The Revd Ann L Lett
8. Mr Matthew Collins

Budgetary implications

Gathering of evidence will take significant resources with consequent staffing and resource implications.

Notice of Motion 2018/207: Human Trafficking

The Presbyteral Session of the Conference was privileged to welcome the Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Bishop of Derby, who addressed the Conference on the theme of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery.

Bishop Alastair spoke about the gospel imperative to 'proclaim release to the captives' and 'to let the oppressed go free' (Luke 4:18). He called on Christians to be informed, to raise awareness and to be involved in challenging the factors which have created the current environment in which 40 million people worldwide are living in conditions of modern slavery (which includes forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage and human trafficking). Many of these are children.

In particular, six significant factors were highlighted:

- The desire within the corporate sector for cheap, flexible and unregulated labour;
- The desire on the part of consumers for inexpensive goods;
- The increase in the number of vulnerable people across the globe;
- The 'Globalisation of Indifference' (a term coined by Pope Francis);
- The growth of international criminal gangs (modern slavery is worth almost as much as the illegal drug industry and is soon set to overtake it);
- The perception that certain people are worth less than others, a perception which has contributed to the 'hostile environment'.

Members of the session told stories and shared experiences of people in their own contexts who had been trafficked and who had been helped by the Church. Attention was drawn to the work of The CLEWER initiative – an Anglican organisation which is working to raise awareness, challenge the situation and support those affected by Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. We are also aware of other organisations working in this area, such as www.hopeforjustice.org, www.slavefreealliance.org and www.stopthetraffik.org and of the significant work already undertaken by Methodist Women in Britain.

During the opening of the Representative Session of the Conference, the President drew attention to Adavu, a Methodist project working to support survivors of modern slavery and to raise awareness.

In light of the above, the Conference:

- (i) re-affirms the belief that all human beings are made in the image of God and as such, any practice which denies the humanity of any individual is sinful;
- (ii) expresses its outrage that 211 years after the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, conditions still pertain, even in the UK, which allow human beings to be held in bondage and to be bought and sold as commodities;
- (iii) directs the President and Vice-President to write to the Home Secretary informing him of the concerns of the Conference in relation to Modern Slavery, and asking what actions the government is taking to raise public awareness of the reality of Modern Slavery, in particular as to how the general public can recognise signs and respond appropriately.

- (iv) directs the Methodist Council to appoint a task group in conjunction with the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), to review the existing available resources and, drawing upon them, produce a set of easily accessible theologically reflective and practical materials (to be made available via the Methodist Church website) which can be used to raise awareness among Methodists, to assist in individual and collective decision making, and to influence government policy at a local and national level in response to the reality of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
- (v) the task group to report to the Conference of 2019.

Proposed: The Revd David I H Hardman

Seconded: The Revd Paul J Worsnop

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. The Revd Dr Sheryl M Anderson | 5. The Revd Karen A Beecham |
| 2. The Revd Ian S Rutherford | 6. Mr Anthony Boateng |
| 3. Mrs Laura Gallery | 7. Mrs Angela Doyle |
| 4. Mr John Cooper | 8. Deacon Marilyn O S Slowe |

Budgetary implications

Substantial additional piece of work utilising significant staff time with consequent cancellation or delay of other work.

Notice of Motion 2018/208: Displaced People

The Conference notes the estimated 65.4 million forcibly displaced people around the world. The Conference recognises the work of Christian Aid, All We Can, Cities of Sanctuary and Community Sponsoring Programmes in prompting Local Churches to find ways to respond.

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to make available suitable online resources to enable churches to pray when the UN meets to discuss a global compact on refugees in September 2018.

Proposed: Mr John Cooper

Seconded: The Revd David I H Hardman

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. The Revd Inderjit S Bhogal
2. Mr Anthony Boateng
3. Ms Jasmine F Yeboah
4. Mrs Anne Vautrey
5. Mr Ian C White
6. The Revd Nigel Cowgill
7. Mrs Sharon Harbottle
8. Deacon Eunice Attwood

Budgetary implications

There may be some costs but it is hoped that this could be partially resourced by the proposers.

Notice of Motion 2018/209: United Methodist Church

1. The Conference stands in solidarity with more than 600 laity and clergy brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church as they bring church charges, under Paragraph 2702.3 of the 2016 United Methodist Book of Discipline, against Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, Attorney General of the United States, a professing member and active

participant of Ashland Place United Methodist Church (Mobile, Alabama), and Clarendon United Methodist Church (Alexandria, Virginia).

2. Following our sisters' and brothers' example to be a challenge to ourselves, our ecumenical partners and our world church partners to challenge ethical and morally unjustified policies that use scripture to justify its implementation.
3. As Christians, we call upon the Prime Minister, Theresa May, to enter into a conversation with President Donald Trump about the use of discriminatory and xenophobic policies that are fundamentally opposed to the message of love and acceptance shown through the teachings of Jesus Christ when he comes to the UK on the 13th July.

Proposed: Mr Tim Annan

Seconded: Ms Daphne Creasman

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. The Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn | 5. Ms Amy Shepherd |
| 2. Deacon Jonathan Miller | 6. Mr Aaron Barnes |
| 3. Mr Alister McClure | 7. Mrs Katrin Hackett |
| 4. The Revd Dr Iain M Ballard | 8. Mrs Ruby Beech |

Budgetary Implications

No financial costs.

Notice of Motion 2018/210: Fasting

In the light of the President and Vice-President's addresses to the Conference, the Conference wishes to encourage representatives to forgo their evening meal on the Sunday of future Conferences. Such a fast would demonstrate the Conference's commitment to God and to those who are struggling with little resources. The fast would be voluntary. The Conference would donate the money saved to the nearest Methodist food bank.

Proposed: Ms Liberty Dane

Seconded: Mr Michael Pryke

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Kira Barfoot
2. Mrs Anna Malnutt
3. Deacon Eunice Attwood
4. Deacon Josephine F A Critchley
5. The Revd Sally A Ratcliffe
6. Miss Jasmine Roberts
7. Ms Ruth Hall
8. Ms Jasmine F Yeboah

Notice of Motion 2018/211: Advance Special Projects of the United Methodist Church

The Conference directs the Methodist Council, in formulating the policy of the Connexional Grants Committee, to study the “Advance Special Projects” of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (our Concordat Partners), and to consider whether a similar scheme would be of value for the British Methodist Church.

Background information

Explanation “Advance Special Projects” of the Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church allow churches to select projects they would like to support for which due diligence has already been given to the governance and efficiency of the project in question. A.P’s have to apply for this status and provide the church with regular publicity. No guarantee of funds are given to the projects. However funds raised are passed to the projects via the central accounting of the Global Ministries.

The value of the scheme is that churches have the freedom to support projects that they are interested in while being assured that these projects are appropriately governed and managed.

Proposed: The Revd John D Howard

Seconded: Mrs Sharon Harbottle

(Signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

1. Ms Daphne Creasman
2. The Revd Dr Stephen D Wigley
3. Bishop Rosemarie Wenner
4. The Revd Dr Andrew D Wood
5. Mrs Pamela Lavender
6. Mrs Susan Marshall-Jennings
7. The Revd Richard J Teal
8. The Revd Canon Graham Thompson

Budgetary implications

Included in existing budgets work already being done.