

**Notice of Motion 1: Concern for Anglican Communion**

Conference is deeply conscious of the debates currently being conducted within our sister churches of the Anglican Communion. It wishes to assure the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the whole Anglican Communion, of our continued prayers. It fervently hopes that the Communion may be able to remain steadfast in its witness to Christ and to remain united in diversity. It prays for grace, wisdom and love in all deliberations of the Lambeth Conference.

Proposed: Revd Paul Flowers  
Seconded: Revd Martin Turner  
(signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

**Notice of Motion 5: Situation in Gaza**

Conference restates its deep concern over the desperate levels of poverty being experienced within Palestinian society, particularly regarding the Gaza Strip and the blockade that Israel has imposed. A recent report co-sponsored by 8 development and human rights agencies, including Christian Aid, Save the Children and Amnesty International, described the situation in Gaza as a “humanitarian implosion”. It states that “80% of families in Gaza currently rely on humanitarian aid compared to 63% in 2006”. It furthermore reports that the blockade “is destroying public service infrastructure in Gaza” and is resulting in hospitals experiencing power cuts lasting 8-12 hours a day.

Consistent with resolutions that Conference has adopted in recent years such as Notice of Motion 100 in 2006 and Notice of Motion 4 in 2007, expressing concern at the plight of Palestinians living under occupation and recognising that both Israelis and Palestinians should be able to live in peace and security, the Conference

- a) Expresses both its encouragement that the Israeli Government and Hamas, under the mediation of Egypt, were recently able to agree a ceasefire and its hope that it will continue.
- b) Calls for a process of peacemaking that eschews violent conflict and warmly commends the “Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel” run by the World Council of Churches.
- c) Joins with Christian Aid, Save the Children, Amnesty and the other sponsors of the above report in calling on Israel to end its blockade of Gaza and to ask the UK and EU “to exert greater pressure on the Government of Israel to open its crossings in Gaza”.

- d) Calls on Methodists to write to their MPs and MEPs to demand urgent action to alleviate the humanitarian crisis facing the people of Gaza and to pray for peace and justice for all God's people in the Holy Land.
- e) Urges the President and Vice-President to bring this urgent concern to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

Proposed: Dr Stephen Leah  
Seconded: The Revd Peter Whittaker  
(signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

### **Notice of Motion 6: Conference Representatives Expenses**

The Conference directs the Methodist Council to explore a way in which Conference representatives may have expenses provided in advance, if they feel that their financial situation would make attending the Conference difficult or limit their participation in the Conference.

Conference also directs the Methodist Council to ensure that representatives are made aware of such a facility in good time before the Conference.

Proposed: Mr David M Jewitt  
Seconded: Deacon Myrtle Poxon  
(signed by 8 other members of Conference)

### **Notice of Motion 7: Conference Representatives**

Conference notes that in recent years, District representatives in their 20s and 30s and those from ethnic minorities, represent a comparatively small proportion of the membership of Conference as a whole. Concerned that this may reflect a failure to identify people from those groups who would, if asked and appropriately supported, be willing to serve as Conference members, Conference:

- directs the Districts to gather appropriate data on the composition of the Districts to enable District Synods more effectively to discharge their responsibilities under Standing Order 417(2);
- directs the Methodist Council, in developing the Equal Opportunities Policy (and the successor Equalities and Diversity Policy), to make provision for monitoring and reporting in particular the composition of Conference over time.

Proposed: The Revd Sylvester Deigh  
Seconded: Mrs Rachael White  
(signed by 8 other members of Conference)

### **Notice of Motion 8: Scotland Committee of NCH**

Conference, hearing that the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland noted with concern the decision by the Council of NCH to restructure its committees so that the

three *ex officio* places for members of the Synod on the Scotland Committee of NCH are to be reduced to one, and regretted that it had not received information from Methodists involved with NCH as to the advantages of the new relationship with the Methodist Church in Scotland, requests the Council of NCH to find ways of showing that monies raised for NCH through the Methodist Church will be used for projects that are not in receipt of central or local government funding, unless to provide a clear augmentation to such a project, and to report progress on this matter back to the Conference of 2009.

Proposed: The Revd T Alan Anderson  
Seconded: Mrs Patricia Laurie  
(signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

**Notice of Motion 9: President/Vice-President nomination process (New Resolution 33/9)**

The Conference, noting that not all members will be familiar with the nominees for the office of President and Vice-President, and believing that members would be better enabled to vote if they had the opportunity to hear the nominees addressing them, directs the Methodist Council in consultation with the Business Committee to consider whether and if so how arrangements for that purpose might be made, and if appropriate, to bring proposals to the Conference of 2009.

Proposed: The Revd Paul Wood  
Seconded: Mrs Norma Nevin  
(signed by 8 other members of the Conference)

**Notice of Motion 10: Qualifications of Candidates for Presbyteral Ministry**

Whilst affirming the principle that all those entering pre-ordination training for presbyteral ministry must be fully accredited local preachers, in practice the effect of the change to Standing Order 710(1)(b) by the Conference of 2007 has resulted in the delay and potential loss of good candidates for training. Therefore Conference amends Standing Order 710(1)(b) to its previous form, i.e.

710(1)(b) A candidate for the ministry shall ***also*** be a local preacher, ***except that a person who has not yet been admitted as a local preacher may be conditionally recommended subject to his or her being admitted before being permitted to enter pre-ordination training as an accepted candidate.***

Proposed: Mrs Ruth Pickles  
Seconded: Mr Dudley Coates  
(signed by 8 other members of the Conference)