



REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 09:15 Opening Prayers
- 09:30 Administration
- 09:45 Agenda item 61: The Future of Methodist Publishing – Resolutions 61/1 and 61/2 (Agenda page 656-657)
- 10:15 Agenda item 54: Fresh Ways Working Group (see Order Paper) – Resolutions 54/1, 54/2, 54/3, 54/4 (Agenda page 577 and Order Paper)
- 10:30 Agenda item 31: Youth Conference – Resolutions 31/1, 31/3, 31/4, 31/5 (Agenda page 275 and Order Paper)
- 10:45 Coffee Break
- 11:15 Agenda item 62: District Resolutions
Closer Working between the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church – Resolution 62/2 (Agenda page 659)
- 11:30 Agenda item 48: Stationing Review Group – Resolutions 48/1, 48/2, 48/3, 48/4 (Agenda page 523, and amended resolutions shown below)
Notice of Motion 114
- 12:00 Agenda item 52: Ministers, Presbyters and Deacons: Signalling Vocation, Clarifying Identity – Resolution 52/1, 52/2, 52/3 (Agenda page 561)
- Agenda item 49: Flexible Retirement: Implementation – Resolution 49/1 (Agenda page 525)
- 12:20 Agenda item 34: Methodist Heritage and Contemporary Mission – Resolutions 34/1, 34/2, 34/3 (Agenda page 325)
- 12:45 Agenda item 33: The Review of the Conference – Resolutions 33/4, 33/5, 33/6, 33/7, 33/8 (Agenda pages 299-316 and Order Paper pages 31-32)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:15 Administration
- 14:30 Resourced debate: Re-floating the Titanic or helping create a new boat!
What has the Church to offer today's rapidly changing society?

- 15:15 Agenda item 55: Statistics for Mission 2005-2007 – Resolution 55/1 (Agenda page 591 and Order Paper)
- 15:45 Agenda item 46: Joint Implementation Commission – Resolutions 46/1, 46/2, 46/3, 46/4, 46/5, 46/7 (Agenda pages 473 and 477)
- 16:15 Agenda item 3: Methodist Homes for the Aged – Resolutions 3/2, 3/3 (Agenda page 32)
- 16:30 Tea Break
- 17:00 Agenda item 46: Joint Implementation Commission [continued]
 Agenda item 31: Youth Conference [continued]
 Prayers
- 19:00 Adjourn

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

1. The Business Committee recommends that the Conference resume after coffee at 11:15 rather than 11:30 and then continues until 13:00.
2. The Business Committee proposes to amend its report on page 30 of the Order Paper to read as follows:

ITEM 48: STATIONING REVIEW GROUP

The Business Committee proposes that the recommendations be grouped in the following three categories.

- (a) Recommendations which are aspirational in character:
 1, 2, 24, 30

The Business Committee recommends that the adoption of these recommendations be moved en bloc.

- (b) Recommendations which affirm existing practice:
 8, 11, 20

The Business Committee recommends that the adoption of these recommendations be moved en bloc.

- (c) Recommendations which seek to change policy or require further work:
 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38

The Business Committee recommends that a resolution be moved that these recommendations be referred to the Methodist Council and the Stationing Committee for the Council and the Stationing Committee, in consultation with the other committees named in the recommendations, either to bring an integrated and prioritised plan for their implementation to the Conference of 2009 or where practical to proceed to earlier implementation.

If accepted, the above will replace resolutions 48/2-48/8 on pages 523-4. Any member of Conference who wishes to oppose or amend a particular recommendation in any of those three groups should submit a Notice of Motion to withdraw it from the appropriate list. The revised resolutions are shown below.

3. Notices of Motion

The Business Committee recommends:

Notice of Motion 112 be taken with the Methodist Council business (agenda item 38)

Notice of Motion 113 be taken with the Connexional Training Strategies business (agenda item 42)

Notice of Motion 114 be taken with the Stationing Review Group business (agenda item 48)

Notice of Motion 115 be taken with the Stationing Review Group business (agenda item 48)

Notice of Motion 6 be referred to the Methodist Council

Notice of Motion 8 be referred to NCH for report back to the 2009 Conference

Notice of Motion 9 be referred to the Methodist Council for report back to the 2009 Conference

Notices of Motion 116 and 117 have the effect of withdrawing the replies to the Memorials concerned out of *en bloc* business.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

ITEM 31: YOUTH CONFERENCE

p275, Resolutions

Amend Resolution 31/3 to read as follows:

The Conference calls upon churches across the connexion to have Bibles in appropriate translations and formats available for the use of new Christians and those seeking to know more about the Christian faith.

ITEM 33: THE REVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE

p299ff, Resolution 33/6

Resolution 33/6 will be moved with the following changes to the proposed text:

(i) *Replace the amendment to clause 24(a), line 4 (p.301) by:*
'matters within clause 23 or ~~23A-25A~~ as to ..'

(ii) *Replace the proposed text for clause 25A(e) (p.303) by the following:*

(e) The committee shall, in relation to deacons and to students and probationers in training or on probation for diaconal ministry, have the responsibility and power, on behalf of the Conference, to:

(i) make all decisions as to the continuance or discontinuance in training or on probation of each student or probationer;

(ii) consider and determine any application for reinstatement by a former student or probationer:
(iii) hear and determine any appeal to the Conference arising out of any charge against a deacon, probationer or student; and its decisions on such matters shall be final.

(iii) *In the proposed text for clause 25B(a)(i) (p.304), for 'the relative duties and privileges' substitute 'the relative responsibilities and powers'.*

p305ff, Resolution 33/7

Indicative amendments to Standing Orders:

- (i) (p306) *add:*
126 Special Resolutions. (1)(a) **Subject to clause 25B(b) of the Deed** sub-clauses (b) to (d) below shall
- (ii) (p306) *in S.O. 138, insert 'the' before 'Conference Diaconal Committee'.*
- (iii) (p306) *in S.O. 1145(2)(a), for 'the committee referred to in this paragraph or in paragraph (d) below' substitute 'the committee constituted under this paragraph or under paragraph (d) below'*
- (iv) (p314) *in S.O. 1145(2)(d), lines 2-3, delete 'of the preceding Conference'.*

ITEM 43: LAW AND POLITY COMMITTEE

p448, Resolution 43/3

Add 'Delete S.O.443(2)'

Insert 'S.O.438A(5)(ii) '... required under clauses (3) and (4) above.....'

p457, S.O. 410(1)

.....

'(xiv) any training and development officers appointed in the District under Standing Order 443 and such numbers of other lay workers'

p452, Resolution 43/5, S0641

replace 'except where Standing Order 644(4) applies' with 'subject to Standing Order 644(4)'

p457 S0410(1)(xiv)

replace 'and' in 4th line with 'or'.

p467, Resolution 43/12

First line to read 'The Conference amends Standing Orders 010(2)(i) and (ii) and 690(1).....'

p467, add a new section to the Law and Polity Report

K CONSULTATION: CITY CENTRE CHURCHES OR PROJECTS

It is good practice before the exercise of a specific power or function to consult interested persons or bodies. On occasion, this is implied but not made explicit in Standing Orders, one example being designation of a church or project for inclusion on the official city centre list. Conversely, Standing Orders explicitly require consultation with the Methodist Council before removal from the list.

The Conference is invited to correct this anomaly and clarify Standing Orders accordingly. The amendments mirrors the existing provision in Standing Order 440(7).

***RESOLUTION

43/13. The Conference amends Standing Orders as follows:

440 City Centres. (1) (a) A Synod may, *after consultation with the Methodist Council*, designate a church or project within the District for inclusion on the city centre list...

(b) A Circuit (including a single-church Circuit) may be similarly designated and listed if in the judgement of the Synod, *after consultation with the Methodist Council*, it is suitable for inclusion as an entity.

P467, add a new section to the Law and Polity Report

L LEGAL SUCCESSION TO THE OFFICE OF CO-ORDINATING SECRETARY

***RESOLUTIONS

43/14. (a) The Conference, in the exercise of its power under section 24 of the Methodist Church Act 1976, hereby declares that from the 1st September 2008, the office of the General Secretary of the Methodist Church shall correspond to each of the abolished offices of Co-ordinating Secretary to the extent of all their continuing functions of the holders of such offices, each of which functions the General Secretary may exercise through such nominee or nominees or office holder or office holders as he or she may by instrument of appointment from time to time nominate for the purpose.

(b) The Conference directs that the above declaration be embodied in a Deed Poll and executed by the President and enrolled in accordance with sub-section (3) of the above section.

(c) The Conference further directs the General Secretary to prepare and maintain a list of all instruments of appointment made for the purposes of the declaration in paragraph (a) above, identifying each person nominated and the functions which he or she is authorised to exercise.

43/15. The Conference amends Standing Orders as follows:

(i) **SO 116 Deputy Secretary**

(3A) The Secretary may delegate to any of the Secretaries in the Connexional Team or other senior members of that Team, as appropriate, or, after consultation with the President, to some other person the exercise, in general or on a particular occasion, of any of the functions assigned to the Secretary by Standing Orders. *He or she shall prepare and maintain a list of all such general delegations made, identifying in each case the relevant person and functions concerned.*

(ii) **SO 300 The General Secretary**

(2B) The General Secretary may delegate to any of the Secretaries in the Connexional Team or other senior members of that Team, as appropriate, or, after consultation with the President, to some other person the exercise, in general or on a particular occasion, of any of his or her formal responsibilities. *He or she shall prepare and maintain a list of all such general delegations made, identifying in each case the relevant person and responsibilities concerned.*

43/16. (a) The Conference directs that for the purposes of applying any provisions in Standing Orders which refer to a Connexional Team Secretary with responsibility for a particular area of work or function, the General Secretary, in consultation with the Connexional Team Secretaries, shall identify the person whose work or function most appropriately relates in each case to that specified, and that each such person (whether or not a Connexional Team Secretary) shall be treated during the connexional year 2008-9 as the person referred to in the relevant provision.

(b) The Conference directs the Methodist Council to bring a report to the Conference of 2009, with any necessary changes to Standing Orders, as to how, in the light of the reconfigured Connexional Team and its methods of working, references in *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* to particular office-holders and areas of responsibility within the Team should be clarified.

ITEM 46: JOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

p477, Resolution 46/7

Proposed membership for the JIC, 2008-2013

The Revd Ruth Gee (co-Chair)
The Revd Ken Howcroft (Co-Convenor)
Steven Cooper
Deacon Sue Culver
Jenny Easson
The Revd Cathy Gale
Dr Peter Howdle
The Revd Neil Stubbens

Reasoned Statements

Ruth Gee: Minister in the Halifax circuit; Secretary of West Yorkshire District Synod; Chair-designate of Darlington District.

Ken Howcroft: Assistant Secretary of the Conference; to become Connexional Ecumenical Officer

Steven Cooper: Under 40; has been member of Conference Review Group and of the Methodist Council; wide experience of ecumenical work in FE and HE.

Sue Culver: Warden-designate of the Methodist Diaconal Order; member of Faith and Order Committee.

Jenny Easson: Nominated by Scotland District; wide experience of ecumenical relations in Scotland; has been member of Methodist Council.

Cathy Gale: Minister of the MCCA; superintendent of the Cwmbran Circuit; nominated by Wales Synod.

Peter Howdle: Former Vice-President of the Conference; member of JIC in its first phase.

Neil Stubbens: Superintendent minister in the St Helens and Prescott Circuit; member of JIC in its first phase.

ITEM 48: STATIONING REVIEW GROUP

p523-524, Resolutions

Replace resolutions 48/2-48/8 with the following:

48/2. The Conference adopts recommendations 1, 2, 24 and 30.

48/3. The Conference adopts recommendations 8, 11 and 20.

48/4. The Conference refers recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 to the Methodist Council and the Stationing Committee, for the Council and the Stationing Committee, in consultation with the other committees named in the recommendations, either to bring an integrated and prioritised plan for their implementation to the Conference of 2009 or where practical to proceed to earlier implementation.

ITEM 54: FRESH WAYS WORKING GROUP

p577, Resolutions

insert

*****RESOLUTION**

54/4. The Conference encourages every Circuit to consider in the light of this report, the Faith and Order paper *The Missional Nature of the Circuit* (Agenda p98) and Standing Order 500 how best to provide resources for the initiation and development of fresh expressions of church, including how staff time might be allocated and ring-fenced for that purpose.

ITEM 55: STATISTICS FOR MISSION 2005-2007

p580, Table 1

Replace the printed table with the following

Table 1

Thousands	2004	2005	2006	2007	Change 2004 to 2007	Change 2006 to 2007
Membership	294	284	273	267	-9%	-2%
Community Roll	797	756	710	648	-19%	-9%
Baptisms and Thanksgivings	15	15	13	11	-24%	-10%
Baptisms over 13	0.72	0.80	0.73	0.89	23%	23%
Confirmations	4.4	4.7	4.2	3.0	-33%	-29%
Couples Married or Blessed	6.8	6.3	5.3	4.3	-37%	-18%
Funerals	32	30	29	24	-25%	-16%
Average Adult Attendance All Week	244	236	212	215	-12%	1%
Average Adult Sunday Attendance	223	216	194	194	-13%	0%
Average Adult Midweek Attendance	21	20	19	22	4%	15%
Average Under 13 Attendance All Week	57	54	44	36	-37%	-17%
Average Under 13 Sunday Attendance	31	29	24	22	-28%	-7%
Average Under 13 Midweek Attendance	27	25	20	14	-46%	-29%
Average 13 to 19 Attendance All Week	16.4	15.3	12.7	10.7	-35%	-15%
Average 13 to 19 Sunday Attendance	8.8	8.5	7.1	6.8	-23%	-5%
Average 13 to 19 Midweek Attendance	7.6	6.7	5.5	3.9	-49%	-29%
Average Attendance All Week	317	305	269	262	-17%	-2%
Average Sunday Attendance	280	269	237	230	-18%	-3%
Average Midweek Attendance	37	35	31	32	-13%	3%