

36. Second Report of the Conference Business Committee

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En bloc items

The Business Committee proposes the following items to be taken *en bloc*:

3. Methodist Council part one sections A, B, D
6. Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes
7. Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes
10. New Room
11. Forces Board
12. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
13. Revision to MIST Articles
15. Methodist Schools appointments
22. Methodist Council part two sections F, I, N, O, Q, S
23. Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
27. Methodist Homes
30. Stationing Committee
31. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
33. Managing Trustees of Central Hall Westminster
34. Methodist Ministers' Housing Society
39. Ecumenical Report
40. Central Finance Board
53. Methodist Diaconal Order General Report
56. Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes

Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the *en bloc* list those items will automatically be removed from the list. In addition, by giving notice to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that an item be removed from the list and debated. Such notice must be given before the close of business on Monday 1 July (SO 134A(1)(c)).

***RESOLUTION

36/1. The Conference adopted the Report of the Business Committee.

Conference Amendment:

THIRD REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Business Committee brings this update to its Reports printed in volumes 1 and 2 of the Agenda (items 2 and 36).

1. As set out in paragraph 7 of the first report (page 13), the Conference is required to elect one member of the Business Committee, a minister, to serve on the Committee for three years (the Conferences of 2025, 2026 and 2027). Nomination forms have been circulated by email and are available from the Helpdesk; they should be placed in the ballot boxes by 17:30 on Monday 1 July, with voting taking place on Tuesday 2 July.
2. Paragraph 9 of the First Report sets out the criteria and procedure for requesting that a letter be sent on behalf of the Conference. Members of the Conference are asked,

if possible, to email conferenceletterwriter@methodistchurch.org.uk with the details of the request. Where that is not possible, please contact the Help Desk.

3. The schedule of business has been available on the Conference website and regularly updated. It now shows the current situation. Any Conference member wishing to have a hard copy can obtain one from the Helpdesk.
4. The Committee recommends the use of an electronic voting system for any counted votes.
5. The ballots for the President and Vice-President of the Conference of 2025 and a member of the Conference Business Committee will be distributed via email and the elections conducted via an online voting system.
6. Nominees for President and Vice-President of the Conference for 2025 are kindly asked to have their photographs taken, for use in the visual projection during breaks. Nominees are asked to see June Howard-Norman in the Conference Arrangements Team office as soon as possible and no later than the closing times for nominations given in the Agenda page 14. In the event that nominees are not present at the Conference, it would be most helpful if those making the nominations could arrange for nominees' photos to be sent electronically to asc@methodistchurch.org.uk.
7. There are two ballot boxes on each side of the hall. These can all be used at any time on Saturday until 19:00 and from Monday morning onwards for all nomination papers, strictly observing the deadlines given on page 14 of the Agenda.
8. Memorials will be taken as shown in the table below:

Number	Title	Business
M1	The Theology of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<i>En bloc</i>
M2	Disciplinary Process	32. Review of Part 11 of Standing Orders
M3	Telling our story	20. God For All
M4	Heritage Sites	<i>En bloc</i>
M5	Resourcing	<i>En bloc</i>
M6	Nassar Family	with a presentation from the Tent of Nations
M7	Nassar Family and Israel/ Palestine	22. Methodist Council, part 2: Section M
M8	Responding to the Conflict in Gaza	<i>En bloc</i>

M9	Israel and Gaza	<i>En bloc</i>
M10	Methodist Conference and Defence and Security Convention	<i>En bloc</i>
M11	Report of the Independent Commission	<i>En bloc</i>
M12	Mission Partners	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section G
M13	Mission Partners	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section G
M14	Connexional Financial Support	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M15	Connexionalism and Expense Cost	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M16	Ministers' Housing Allowance	<i>En bloc</i>
M17	Prolonged Ministers Suspension	22. Methodist Council Part 2 Section K
M18	Ministerial Stress	<i>En bloc</i>
M19	Mandatory Training Requirements	<i>En bloc</i>
M20	Mandatory Training Requirements	<i>En bloc</i>
M21	Modified Constitutions	20. God For All
M22	Modified Constitutions	20. God For All

Any recommended reply to a memorial which is the subject of an amending notice of motion will automatically be removed from the *en bloc* list. A memorial can only be removed from the *en bloc* list if an alternative reply is proposed by way of a notice of motion.

9. The list of *en bloc* items of business (page 453) is now as printed below:

3. Methodist Council part one sections A, B, D
6. Trustees for the Bailiwick of Guernsey Methodist Church Purposes
7. Trustees for Jersey Methodist Church Purposes
10. New Room
11. Forces Board
12. Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland
13. Revision to MIST Articles
15. Methodist Schools appointments
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- 27. Methodist Homes
- 30. Stationing Committee
- 31. Referred Memorials and Notices of Motion
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- 56. Trustees for Manx Methodist Church Purposes

Memorials to the Conference as listed in paragraph 8 above.

Under the terms of SO 134A, if Notices of Motion are received about items in the en bloc list (including memorials), those items will automatically be removed from the above list. In addition, by giving notice to the Secretary of the Conference (via Jane Bates at batesj@methodistchurch.org.uk), any six members of the Conference may, without proposing an amendment, require that any item, except a recommended reply to a memorial, be removed from the list and debated. Such notice must be given before the close of business on Monday 1 July (SO 134A(1)(c)).

- 10. As part of the Conference's commitment to inclusion and to ensuring accessibility, the committee has discussed how it might monitor the diversity of those participating in the conversations and debates at the Conference. Members of the Conference will be aware that every member of the Conference is asked to complete an EDI monitoring form. The Record Office therefore has statistical data which show the proportions of the Conference members who have declared protected characteristics. Those forms are anonymised. The Conference is therefore recommended to authorise that in future years members of the Conference will be asked to give permission for some of the information included on the form to be held confidentially by those who will monitor the diversity of the Conference.
- 11. Members of the Conference also indicate for the purposes of their badges their preferred pronouns. It is therefore possible for the gender diversity of contributors to debates to be monitored. It is also possible to note whether a speaker is lay or ordained. The Business Committee recommends that the Conference authorises this monitoring this year (enabling a pilot for more extensive monitoring in future years) and that a brief statistical report on the previous day's debates be presented to the Conference each morning.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

B/1 The Conference adopted the Report.

B/2 The Conference adopted the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 10.

B/3 The Conference adopted the recommendation of the Business Committee in paragraph 11.

B/4 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/4:

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

In the light of the amendments brought to Agenda item 13 (Methodist Independent Schools Trust – Revision to Articles of Association) by the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee, the Business Committee informs the Conference that this report will be removed from the *en bloc* list.

Executive Summary

This report presents the findings from the gender diversity monitoring conducted at the Conference on 1 July 2024. There were a total of 57 speakers throughout the day. The data reveals a balanced male and female representation with 27 male, 28 female, two non-binary speakers. Speakers who were Lay: 20 (35%), Ordained: 37 (65%).

Introduction

The purpose of this monitoring is to gain an understanding of the gender distribution of speakers, giving an insight into issues of inclusion and representation. This report covers data collected on 1st July 2024. Further analysis will take place post Conference.

Methodology

Data were collected by volunteers who recorded the gender of speakers as described on their name badges and whether speakers were Lay or Ordained for each session. Tally sheets were compiled and analysed to provide an overview of gender diversity.

Resolution B/4 was received.

B/5 The Conference adopted as Resolution B/5:

EDI Monitoring Report

This report presents the findings from the gender diversity monitoring conducted at the Methodist Conference on Tuesday 2nd July 2024. There were a total of 76 speakers throughout the day. The data revealed 35 male speakers, 36 female speakers, 1 non-binary speaker and 4 speakers preferred not to state their gender. Speakers who were lay: 28 (37%), ordained: 48 (63%).

Because of absences, there have been 220 representatives at the Conference. 117 female representatives, 87 male representatives, 2 non-binary representatives and 14 representatives who preferred not to state a gender.

There were a total of 113 ordained (51% of representatives) representatives and 107 lay (49% of representatives) representatives.

Statistical Summary

Total Number of Speakers: 76

Gender Distribution of Speakers

Female: 36 Male: 35 Non-Binary: 1 Prefer Not To Say: 4

Resolution B/5 was received.