

52. Fresh Ways Working Group: The Future

Basic Information

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Gareth Powell, Assistant Secretary of the Conference asc@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Final, on the recommendation of the Methodist Council
Action Required	Decision
Resolutions	52/1. The Conference receives the report and adopts the recommendations set out in paragraphs 5.0 – 5.3.
Alternative Options to Consider, if Any	N/A

Fresh Ways Working Group – The Future

1.0 The 2007 Conference agreed the following resolutions which brought the Fresh Ways of Working Group (FWWG) into being:

R19/2. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to take the necessary steps to enable and encourage fresh ways of being church in a structured and strategic way and in particular through the development of guidance for:

- a. the stationing and deployment of lay and ordained people to begin and sustain fresh expressions of church (working with the Stationing Committee)
- b. the identification and training of suitably gifted lay people, deacons and presbyters, to begin fresh expressions of church
- c. the appropriate and wise development and recognition of fresh expressions of church within Circuits and Districts

R19/3. The Conference further directs the Methodist Council to bring annual reports to the Conference from 2008 to 2013 detailing progress made and with detailed guidance including any necessary changes to Standing Orders.

2.0 FWWG has met since then and reported annually as requested to the Conference. Much has been achieved through this group and tribute is paid to their expertise and passion in enabling the Church to be flexible to the mission it is called to.

3.0 In the last few years much has changed in the landscape of the Church and in order to support that new structures and committees have emerged. The Chair (The Revd Dr Andrew Wood) and the Convenor (The Revd Stephen Lindridge) of the FWWG are therefore agreed that the time is right for a change in direction to ensure that the work of Fresh Expressions stays connected with other emerging agendas of the Church.

4.0 In 2011 one of the resolutions from the General Secretary's report was as follows:

2/2. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to consider the issues raised in the section of the report entitled "Patterns of ministry: discipleship and mission" and "a fluid 'mixed economy' " and bring recommendations to the Conference as soon as proves possible.

5.0 It is thought that this remit sits alongside that of the original FWWG and so on the recommendation of the Methodist Council, the Conference is asked to approve the following changes to the FWWG's ways of working:

5.1 The FWWG as is it currently constituted becomes a Practitioners' Forum concerned with issues of emerging Church with additional possible membership drawn from:

- Those leading larger churches into growth (membership of 200+)
- Those leading ethnic or language based churches in growth.
- Those transforming inherited forms of church into growth
- Those leading fresh expressions connected to inherited forms of church
- Those leading fresh expressions in cultural context (ie not on church premises but in the work-place, home, 3rd place, or unique place)
- Representatives from among the District Officers connecting and supporting these ministries

- Representatives from the Fresh Expressions team and the Connexional Team.

This broader membership will ensure that greater and deeper representation from among those leading and supporting fresh ways of being Church than is possible through the existing FWWG's membership, and responds to numerous requests from practitioners in this field to have broader stronger links to the development of connexional policies and initiatives.

- 5.2 Any small group constituted by the Ministries Committee and the Faith and Order Committee to look at the 'fluid mixed economy' of Church includes appropriate expertise from the existing FWWG.
- 5.3 The Ministries Committee ensures that Fresh Expressions has adequate robust reporting line to the Conference through the Committee, therefore negating the need for a separate FWWG report.

*****RESOLUTION**

52/1. The Conference received the report and adopted the recommendations set out in paragraphs 5.0-5.3.