

## 12. 3Generate 2018 - Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

<b>Contact name and details</b>	Jasmine Yeboah, Youth President youthpresident@methodistchurch.org.uk
<b>Resolutions</b>	12/1. The Conference receives the Report.  12/2. The Conference urges Local Churches actively to engage with the 3Generate manifesto, by including it on Church Council agendas and committing to intentional actions as a response.

### Summary of content

<b>Subject and aims</b>	A summary of 3Generate 2018 - The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly and the work of 3Generate year round.
<b>Main Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance and Representation of 3Generate</li> <li>• The overview of 3Generate</li> <li>• Candidates elected for the role of Youth President and 3Generate Youth Representatives.</li> <li>• 3Generate Manifesto</li> <li>• Highlighted areas for action and Resolutions</li> </ul>

### 3Generate 2018-Methodist Children and Youth Assembly

Introduction:

1. 3Generate is the Children and Youth Assembly of the Methodist Church where young people from across the Connexion aged between 8 years and 23 years old gather to engage in issues that are important to them. This action-packed weekend inspires young people to speak out, engage and respond to issues that affect them, the wider Methodist Church and society as a whole.

#### Attendance

2. 1,120 delegates, aged 8-23, attended 3Generate 2018, supported by volunteers, group leaders, Connexional Team staff, ONE Programme Participants (OPPs), ONE Interns and Youth Representatives. Altogether, 1,711 people were a part of 3Generate 2018, making it our largest event ever.

#### 3Generate 2018 theme: Courageous

3. This year's theme was '#Courageous'. This theme aims to encourage young people to step outside of their comfort zone to do something Courageous for Christ. This theme has been carried throughout the year in the visits of the Youth President and at other youth events across the country. The Courageous theme has also sparked a social media campaign and this enables young people to keep up-to-date on how the theme is being used across the Connexion.

#### Overview of the event

4. The event programme is designed and shaped to enable delegates to be immersed in opportunities to Speak out, Engage and Respond to topics that have been chosen and selected by children and young people from across the Connexion. 3Generate also gives children and

young people the opportunity to raise issues that are important to them. This is explored and expressed in a variety of ways and styles across the event. The event enables and challenges the delegates to be agents of change in their own churches and communities. As a result children and young people are empowered to engage the whole church in dialogue and action on issues that are important to them through the manifesto.

### **Elections**

5. The following people were elected as 3Generate representatives at the 2018 event:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Youth President 2019/2020	Thelma Commey
Conference Representatives	Charlotte Hambly, Verity Wild and Martha Rand
Council Representative	Michael Pryke
British Youth Council Representatives	Mary Sharples, Alex Lea and Emily Roe
Ecumenical Representative	James Jenkins
Social Justice Representative	James Carver

6. These representatives will join Gemma Curtis, Roxanne Bainbridge and Roxanne Bromley on the 3Generate representative team. They will combine to form the Youth President's Advisory Group, under Standing Order 250(9).

### **The 3Generate Manifesto**

7. The manifestos and resources are produced to enable the rest of the Church to be in continuous dialogue with children and young people. The children and young people are empowered to work together to take action within their local area in a way that is relevant to their own context. The 2019 manifesto was created from feedback gathered across all the venues at 3Generate 2018. Children and young people challenged the Methodist Church to be courageous about the following issues:

#### **Homelessness**

8. Encouraging churches to take action within their local communities, by either supporting existing projects created by organisations such as the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT), local community outreaches or creating new initiatives to help combat homelessness where there are no existing projects.

#### **Environment**

9. Inspiring churches to implement strategies that will encourage the members of their congregation to recycle more, use less plastic and pick up litter. The positive environmental strategies could be executed collectively (in the form of a church action plan) or individually in the hope that environmentally-saving methods become part of people's daily lifestyles.

#### **Helping others**

10. Seeking those who are lonely and struggling and doing something to help them. The young people strongly encourage churches to be explicitly welcoming and deliberately inclusive to

people outside the church walls. By 'inclusive' the intention is to extend beyond merely focusing on issues to do with race, sexuality, gender etc but to seek to include people who may be in different circumstances, for example, ex-offenders, single parent families, refugees, asylum seekers, people with a disability.

### **Creating Safe Spaces**

11. Whether 'church' refers to the people or the building it is important to create safe spaces which allow everyone to be listened to and not judged. Therefore, we would encourage churches to think of new initiatives to allow this to happen.

### **Creative in worship**

12. Worship is a lifestyle. Therefore we encourage churches to be creative and varied in the way that we worship God. Whether we are worshipping through song or fighting for social justice, it is important to keep God at the centre of our worship.

### **Making a positive impact in our local communities**

13. In order to build bridges between the church and our local communities it is important to build positive relationships. Therefore the young people challenge the church to get to know and learn about more people in our local communities so that we build relationships, break down barriers and stop prejudice.

### **Resolutions**

14. The resolutions which accompany this report were produced using feedback from the children and young people present at 3Generate and by the Youth President's Advisory Group.
15. The resolutions derived from the 3Generate manifesto and therefore the children and young people ask that the Conference directs Church Councils actively to engage with the 3Generate manifesto, by including it on Church Council agendas and committing to intentional actions as a response.
16. In addition to this, it was evident from feedback that the young people would like the Church to be a place where all people feel welcome. Therefore we encourage churches to hold or expand an existing gathered community event, with the aim of 'seeking those who are lonely and struggling and do something to help them' in response to the manifesto. For example a lunch club, coffee morning or quiz nights.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**12/1. The Conference received the Report.**

**12/2. The Conference urged Local Churches actively to engage with the 3Generate manifesto, by including it on Church Council agendas and committing to intentional actions as a response.**