

World Methodist Committee 2016/17

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Status of Paper	Final
Action Required	Note
Resolution	64/1. The Council receives the report

Summary of Content

Subject and Aims	To provide a report of the World Methodist Council and Conference in Houston, Texas, September 2016
Main Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Methodist Council met either side of the World Methodist Conference in Houston, Texas, September 2016 • Social Justice and International Affairs Committee called to action on its involvement on social justice and international affairs • Epworth Old Rectory undertaken developmental work and conveyed thanks to the Council • Plans outlined for the 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies August 2018 • Acknowledgement of contribution of Methodist Church in Britain to Achieving the Vision Fund

- 1 The 21st World Methodist Council and Conference, met in Houston, Texas from 29 August – 6 September 2016. The Methodist Church in Britain was represented by 16 Conference-appointed representatives for 2016-2021, including the President, the Revd Dr Roger Walton, and Vice-President, Ms Rachel Lampard, and the Partnership Coordinators of World Church Relationships team.

World Methodist Conference

- 2 The theme for the Conference was “ONE” - God, Faith, People and Mission. Sisters and brothers in Christ from 108 nations celebrated the opening of the Conference, each church entering on stage with their banner.
- 3 The Conference was welcomed by Peggy Larney, a Choctaw Nation indigenous woman and board member of the Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church in the United States. Peggy urged the conference to pray for all indigenous peoples struggling for land and water rights and to be honoured and respected as First Nation peoples.
- 4 Dr Jennifer Wiseman, astrophysicist and director of Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Revd Dr David Wilkinson, professor at St Johns College at Durham University in the UK, dialogued on the topic: ‘Awesome Universe, Awesome God’.
- 5 Each day opened with worship, followed by a Bible study. The afternoons involved workshops and plenary sessions, each with a different speaker, including the Revd Joanne Cox-Darling from the Methodist Church in Britain. The evenings had food, and music, and the final evening bringing the Conference to a close with the induction of the President and Vice-President, set within vibrant and dynamic worship.

World Methodist Council

- 6 The World Methodist Council met twice during this time, once before and once after the Conference. The Council received reports from the General Secretary, the Revd Ivan Abrahams, the outgoing Vice-President the Revd Paul Lockmann, and the various committees that report to the Council.
- 7 News was shared from around the regions, of different aspects of the work of God, in denominations that have their roots in the Methodist and Wesleyan tradition. The Revd Dr J C Park was elected as President and Ms Gillian Kingston as Vice-President. Following the Conference, there was much discussion as what were to be the priorities of the Council during the forthcoming quinquennium, which will be finalised by the steering committee.
- 8 A number of committees reported to the Council, and one in particular to highlight is the Social Justice and International Affairs Committee who called the Council to reflect on its involvement on social justice and international affairs in the following ways:
 - A prophetic voice must be sounded in issues affecting human beings.
 - There is a need of coordinated partnerships and networking, which will see mission groups developed to go for missionary activities throughout the world.
 - There is a need critically to reflect on our role towards ending of HIV&AIDS, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases which have destroyed nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia
 - The need for the WMC to continue to advocate for environment justice, and the reduction of gas production this done in partnership with other ecumenical movements
 - For the WMC to also continue to advocate for peace in the world, respect of human rights, and elimination of all forms of discrimination.
 - The need to partner in programmes in which the church will be seen as God's hands on earth assisting poverty stricken societies through water harvesting initiatives and other agricultural practices to ensure that human dignity is restored
 - In partnership with other ecumenical movements, accompaniment of communities and nations need to be continued throughout our family network.
- 9 The council received a report from the trustees of Epworth Old Rectory outlining some of the development work that has taken place as well as changes to governance structures. The trustees indicated how grateful they are for the support received from members of the Methodist movement across the world to enable more and more people to share the spiritual heritage that motivated John and Charles Wesley.
- 10 A number of affiliate organisations including the Oxford Institute also reported to the council. The WMC was informed that the 14th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies will meet on 12-19 August, 2018. In order to accommodate more people than at the 13th Institute, the meeting will be held at Pembroke College, Oxford. The theme of the 14th Institute is "Thy Grace Restore, Thy Work Revive": Revival, Reform, and Revolution in Global Methodism. The planning committee is working to secure speakers and leaders for the event. A call for papers for specific working groups will soon be available. More information about the theme is available at <https://oxford-institute.org/next-meeting/>
- 11 Other business included the Council receiving a proposed agreement between The World Methodist Council and The World Methodist Historical Society, and celebrated the 60th anniversary of the World Methodist Museum in Lake Janaluska, North Carolina.

Achieving the Vision

- 12 The quinquennium also marked the end of the Achieving the Vision campaign aimed at providing a source of funding for the global ministry of the World Methodist Council. The Methodist Church in Britain has donated a total of £90,358 to the Fund and we are extremely grateful to those churches, circuits, and districts who have generously given.

Ongoing activities of the World Methodist Council

- 13 In addition to the events mentioned in this report, the World Methodist Council has continued to operate its global ministry through the work of its staff, officers and standing committees during the past year. Members of the Council are reminded that full details of the Council's activities may be found on their website (<http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/>) and in particular the First Friday Newsletter (<http://firstfridayletter.worldmethodistcouncil.org/>) demonstrates the breadth and diversity of the work that goes on.

*****RESOLUTION**

64/1. The Council receives the report.