

Minutes of the 2016 Pre-Conference World Methodist Council Meeting

30-31 August, 2016 – Houston, Texas

Tuesday, 30 August

I. Introductions and Instruction

Bishop Paulo Lockmann, President, welcomed Council Members. The bar was set and registration sign in sheet was circulated.

A. Substitutions

1. Luke Curren will be substituted by Doug Swanney (MC in Britain).
2. Rev M.A. Daniel will replace Bishop Taranath Sagar (MC in India).

B. Assigning Roles

The following individuals were appointed tasks for the duration of the meeting and were APPROVED by acclamation:

1. Scrutineers: Mr David Friswell, Robin Lim, Musi Losaba, Samuel Murillo, Talwo Odejayi, Shaila John Wesley
2. Listening committee: David Bush, Bishop Amuta, Christine Elliott, Bishop Anil Servand
3. Parliamentarian: Dr. John Barrett
4. Recording Secretary: Barbara Bowser, Jackie Bolden
- C. A short time of remembrance was held for Council Members and friends who had departed (2016a INF 05). Those not included on the list were named:

1. Rev Dr. Kenneth Greet (MC in Britain)
2. Bishop Franz Scäfer (Central & Southern Europe UMC)
3. Bishop S.K. Parmar (MC in India)
4. Bishop S.S. Singh (MC in India)
5. Bishop S.R. Thomas (MC in India)
6. Bishop Enrique Flores (MC of Mexico)

II. Approving the Minutes from 2013 Council Meeting

ACTION 1: Joshua Rathnam (MC in India) moved to approve 2013 Council Meeting minutes. Seconded, APPROVED

III. Report of the President

ACTION 2: Bishop Paulo Lockmann presented the Report of the President (2016a GEN 02). REPORT RECEIVED by acclamation

IV. News from the Asia Pacific Region was shared (Appendix 3)

V. Report of General Secretary

General Secretary Ivan Abrahams reported on the work of the Council over the past quinquennium (2016a GEN 01). Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church and founder of World Hope International, will be given peace award Saturday. Proposed Patterns of Working – doing more with less – will come before the new council next week. The last Steering Committee meeting endorsed that the General Secretary function with a “virtual office” to allow more flexibility. Office space will be provided at Methodist Church House in London, South Africa, and Lake Junaluska.

ACTION 3: General Secretary Abrahams’ Report of the General Secretary was RECEIVED.

ACTION 4: General Secretary Abrahams proposed member churches find ways of celebrating the 310th anniversary of Charles Wesley’s birth on December 18, 2017, seconded by Bishop C.R. Opoko (MC Nigeria). APPROVED

Response

- WMC needs to be at World Council of Churches meetings
- Decision was taken in London 2013 that various member churches must create platform for mutual learning, history, common faith (pg 4)

ACTION 5: Bishop Rosemarie Wenner (UMC - Germany) proposed formation of Standing Committee on Faith and Unity. REFERRED TO NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

VI. Treasurer’s report – Kirby Hickey

Last 5 years important to understand when change of accounting and personnel it takes time to get to where we want to be. We are where we want to be with recordkeeping, but not where we need to be financially, primarily due to lagging member contributions. Office finances have been streamlined including:

- Clean audit which has saved about \$50,000 over last 5 years
- 2017 budget reflects retirement of YYA Coordinator position, increasing committee funding to \$8,000.
- Epworth Old Rectory contributions will now be based on 25 basis points of ATV endowment fund.

A. Presented 2016a FIN 01 - Action Plan #1

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws VIII.C.1.a: omit “the Geneva Secretary” and “plus not less than five...” through end of sentence. (Ruby Beech, former chair of Finance committee clarified that Steering Committee bringing this change).

Discussion:

- Point of procedure:
 - o Bylaws can be changed by 2/3 vote
 - o Info needs to have been circulated 24 hours beforehand
- Concern expressed at removing 2nd phrase from sentence and hoped that others could be brought on committee to increase inclusiveness.
- Asked clarification on when decision to eliminate Geneva Secretary happened, spoke against removing Geneva Secretary because ecumenical voice will be important.
- Bishop P. Streiff (UMC – CS Europe clarified that discussion took place around taking position part-time. Proposals were not brought before council. After Bishop Bolleter retired, position was closed.
- Finance committee should still meet despite financial concerns; important to hear voices not part of executive committee. Encouraged meeting virtually.

ACTION 6: R. Beech (MC in Britain) proposed approving 2016a FIN 01 Action plan #1 as printed, amending the bylaws VIII.C.1.a to read: “The budget and finance committee is composed of the Officers, the General Secretary, the Geneva Secretary, and the Chief Financial Officer.” MOTION FELL

ACTION 7: Bylaws changes DEFEATED. REFERRED TO BYLAWS COMMITTEE

B. Presented 2016a FIN 01 - Action Plan #2

K. Hickey presented Proposed Member Church Representation on the Council 2016-21 (2016a FIN 05).

Discussion:

- Why has Council body increased when not more than half come to meetings? We should encourage involvement rather than numbers. K. Hickey explained that it was more about making representation numbers in line with member church membership.
- David Friswell (MC Britain) – would like to see more balanced approach among members of churches. Reduce number of council members for MCB to allow other churches to have representation more in line with size of church.
- The formula and rationale for member church representation and contributions were presented.

ACTION 8: K. Hickey proposed accepting 2016a FIN 05 Proposed Member Church Representation on the Council 2016-21. Bishop Teresa Snorton (CME) seconded. ACCEPTED

C. Presented 2016a FIN 01 – Action Plan #3

Discussion:

- The expected contribution amounts were not presented to member churches ahead of receiving the proposal. The increase in contribution amounts are not consistent with representation. The figures for representation and contribution amount don't always correlate.
- A concern was raised that the UMC carries about 70% of contributions.
- It was noted there will be a reduction of income with the new figures. Any deficits will have to be covered by infusions from the Achieving the Vision Endowment disbursements.
- In the past only 75% of contributions were received, and there are other socio-economic factors and membership numbers at play.

ACTION 9: K. Hickey proposed 2016a FIN 06 Proposed Member Church Contributions 2016-21 be accepted by Council. ACCEPTED

ACTION 10: K. Hickey proposed 2016a FIN 04 Proposed Resolutions on Inactive Member Church Status be accepted.

Resolution 1 – Non-payment of contributions by member churches of the WMC.

G. Kingston moved to accept. Seconded. 161 needed for quorum. ACCEPTED

Resolution 2 – Membership of the Steering Committee and Appointment of Officers. G. Kingston moved to accept. 2nd by Joshua Rathnam. ACCEPTED

D. Financial Audits

Chair of the Audit Committee, Mr. David Aiken, celebrated that all financial audits conducted by Gabler, Molis & Grey firm were found to be clean and satisfactory. Copies of audits were made available to all Council Members.

VII. Ecumenical Relationships Committee Report – Prof. Robert Gribben

R. Gribben, introduced Dr. Larry Miller, General Secretary of the Global Christian Forum.

The full report of the committee may be found in 2016a GEN ERC 01.

- Reported on Catholic and Anglican dialogue reports. Available online, and printed copies available for purchase. Encouraged churches to spread the word, share the online reports so that they can gain traction.

ACTION 11: R. Gribben moved acceptance of resolution 1 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) to receive the Anglican-Methodist Dialogue report. REPORT RECEIVED

ACTION 12: R. Gribben moved approval of resolution 2 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) to implement an Anglican-Methodist International Coordinating Committee made up of the below named committee members:

WMC General Secretary or nominee

Bishop Purity Malinga (MCSA)

Mrs. Gillian Kingston (Methodist Church in Ireland)

Bishop Michael Watson (The United Methodist Church)

Rev Prince Devanandan (Methodist Church of New Zealand)

Seconded. APPROVED with 1 abstention.

ACTION 13: R. Gribben Moved acceptance of resolution 3 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) to receive the Methodist-Catholic Dialogue Report The Call to Holiness: From Glory to Glory and commends to study in churches and seminaries. ACCEPTED

ACTION 14: R. Gribben Moved acceptance of resolution 4 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) to accept interim Baptist-WMC Dialogue report, a full report will be given to Council in 2018. ACCEPTED

ACTION 15: R. Gribben Moved acceptance of resolution 5 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) that Council sends greetings to the President and members of Lutheran World Federation on the 500th anniversary of the evangelical ministry of Martin Luther. ACCEPTED

ACTION 16: R. Gribben moved approval of resolution 6 in report (2016a GEN ERC 01) commends time of celebration of creation with focus on ecological responsibility from 1 Sept - 4 Oct. APPROVED

ACTION 17: G. Kingston moved commendation of Prof. Robert Gribben for his work as the chair of the Standing Committee on Ecumenical Relationships Committee. COMMENDED BY APPLAUSE

VIII. News from the European Region was shared (Appendix 3)

IX. Youth & Young Adult Committee Report

Chair of YYA committee Christy-Anna Errington, President Lauren Matthew, and Coordinator John Thomas gave highlights of report (2016a GEN-YYA01)

- Drew focus to ensuring young adults have voice in entire work of WM Council

- Devotional blog on website, resources
- Communications with member church youth leaders and networks
- Visits by youth committee – face to face meetings important to building relationships; were part of African Methodist Youth Movement’s first meeting in Dec. 2012.
- Young Leaders Seminar (IMYLS) will have 57 participants from 28 member churches
- Position of youth coordinator/youth president will be one position which will hopefully add more potential/potency to position to give concentrated presence in WMC.
- Recommendations listed in report to integrate young adults in to the Council and Steering Committee. Develop more effective ways of networking – deliberate conversations with regional networks.
- Thanks given to John Thomas III for his work on behalf of the YYA committee and youth and young adults.

Discussion

- Thanks were extended for report and work of the YYA committee. Challenge to take part in encouraging young adults to be a part of the Council. For every bishop, senior person, there should be a young person.
- Need to ensure that young people can get visas
- Question of what is challenge for next 5 year for youth in the World Methodist Council – greatest challenge is the member churches; the fastest growing population is 17-35 in global south who have to face discrimination. Member churches need to support the young people. When financial issues occur – youth work is dropped. Very few people in the room under 35, yet it is the group that is talking about the future of the church. Challenged to find young adults to serve on the Council. (See Appendix 1 for full statement)

X. Family Life Committee Report – Bishop Teresa Snorton

The full report may be found under 2016a GEN FLC 01.

- Used First Friday Newsletter and website to house resources including topics of human trafficking, poverty and children, nurturing children of unchurched parents, child health.
- Highlighted places where family life concerns have been represented and workshops for Conference.

XI. Theological Education Committee Report – Dr. J.C. Park

The full report may be found under 2016a GEN TEC 01.

- Focus on Evangelical Theological education, and Wesleyan Ecumenical Leadership
- Strategy - Global South-South solidarity, East-West partnership
- 3 meetings in relation to Theological Education, and 3 others for East-West partnership.

XII. Inter-Religious Relationships Committee Report – Mrs. Emmy Lou John

The full report may be found under 2016a GEN IRC 01. The chair introduced the video which would be played during the Conference.

ACTION 18: Dr. Kimberley Reisman proposed adoption of Statement Rejecting Religious Extremism from World Methodist Evangelism Regional Secretaries (Appendix 2) which encourages the use of the 2004 statement “Wesleyan Methodist Witness in Christian and Islamic Cultures.” Seconded. ADOPTED

XIII. Education Committee – Dr. Amos Nascimento

The full report can be found under 2016a GEN EDUC 01. The chair introduced members and referred to the committee as a “Learning committee.”

- The committee seeks to determine what we mean by “Wesleyan education” (an ecumenical view)
- The committee works under a decentralized structure to facilitate connection and sharing of resources, and plans to take advantage of existing council meetings to plan committee meetings in order to reduce travel costs.
- Committee members shared what the committee means to them
- The committee noted that there will be many celebrations in the various denominations in 2016

XIV. Social and International Affairs Committee – Mr. Mbongeni Magagula

The full report can be found under 2016a GEN SIAC 01.

XV. Nominating Committee Report – Dr. Yvonne Tracey

The full report can be found under 2016a NOM 03. This report also brought the recommendation to establish a bylaws committee in order to address conflicts/tensions around various membership/delegate issues.

Discussion

- Concern was expressed that 10 officers on the slate were from the Nominating Committee . It was explained that the Nominating Committee did not nominate selves, but were nominated by leadership of churches. Responses from churches were low.
- Clarified that New Council will name members of Finance Committee - General Secretary and Geneva Secretary not voting members, and don't count toward 7 members of finance committee
 - o Nominating committee did not expect to have to name additional members to finance committee due to proposal that was defeated.
- It was noted that there was one year devoted to calling for delegates; a list of delegates should be sent around so that church leadership knows the pool to pull from.

ACTION19: Bishop Ziphosihle Siwa (MCSA) Moved to accept nominations, endorse. Bring the new Patterns of Working to the new council. MOTION FELL

ACTION 20: Bishop Christian Alsted proposed to follow the bylaws by electing officers at the first meeting of the quinquennium (interpreted as the post-conference council meeting beginning 4 Sept. 2016). Seconded. DEFEATED

ACTION 21: Bishop Michael Watson proposed suspending bylaws VI.a.1 to approve slate. APPROVED

ACTION 22: Dr Yvonne Tracey proposed to move forward with presented slate, and Nominating Committee would meet overnight to bring names for finance. At the new Council, (post-conference Council meeting 4 Sept 2016) establish Bylaws committee to resolve conflicts and present at next Council meeting in 2018/19. Seconded. APPROVED

Dr. Tracey appealed for nominations for finance committee.

Adjourned

Wednesday, 31 August

Past General Secretary George Freeman was recognized.

XVI. News from the Africa Region was shared (Appendix 3)

XVII. Evangelism Committee Report – Bishop Michael Watson and Dr. Kimberly Reisman

The full report can be found under 2016a GEN WME 01.

- World Evangelism has been actively engaged across the planet.
- Thanked previous leaders including Sir Alan Walker, Dr. Eddie Fox, Dr. Winston Worrell, and current director, Dr. Kimberly Reisman.
- WME has far-reaching effects and legacy through:
 - o Evangelism Summits on all continents with leadership of Winston Worrell, WME Institute director.
 - o Methodist-Wesleyan family joins together weekly in spiritual discipline in over 130 countries for through Connecting Congregations.
 - o Order of the Flame spread to Africa and Ireland to encourage young pastors and spouses.
- Called attention to:
 - o Error in the Report: 2014 should be 2012
 - o Word, Deed, Sign report
 - o Who We are, What we do booklet
- New logo and new website (worldmethodist.org). Also highlighted Wesleyan Accent website (<https://www.worldmethodist.org/wesleyan-accent/>).
- Exploring new ways to offer cross-cultural evangelism experiences in seminaries

- Communication and updating resources (FaithSharing New Testament in English and translated to other languages)
- Order of the Flame and ICYCE (Metanoia – “Transformation”) undergoing updates.
- Issued invitation for all to join for various connecting events.

Discussion

- James Hlei, Pres. Church in Upper Myanmar/Burma proposed WMC should have statement about Evangelism such as “Evangelism still the core of church mission.”
- More specifics were requested on statistics of new Christians? WME does not collect those statistics, but can do so through WMC. Information could be shared in First Friday letter.
- Winston Worrell highlighted 2018 WME Global Evangelism Summit. Emails with more information will be sent from WME.

XVIII. World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women – Mrs. Ann Connan

The full report can be found under 2016a GEN WFW 01. The president reported the assembly meeting under the theme “Chosen People, Called to Proclaim” was one of the largest with 850 attendees. The various activities at the Assembly were described.

- Seminars have been held in all of the regions.
- WFM&UCW have nongovernmental status with UN. Women from even the most remote areas can have concerns heard through structures of WFM&UCW.
- Financial and continuity difficulties have been experienced due to president emerita leaving the organization, leaving extra responsibilities for other World officers; issues with finance due to indiscretion of previous treasurer.
- 3.5 million women in over 70 countries are members of WFM&UCW.
- The women don’t just “talk” they work!

XIX. Introduction of Ecumenical Visitors – Dr. Robert Gribben

- Representative of Anglican Communion, Bishop Howard Gregory (Jamaica), brought greetings from General Secretary of the Anglican Communion

XX. WesleyMen/World Fellowship of Methodist & Uniting Church Men – Mr. Larry Malone

Report provided in video format:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/uw8624jllc58bhf/090216b_06_WesleyMen_Report.mp4?dl=0.

- Highlighted FastPrayGive.org, current focus of the organization.
- Vision of feeding 4 million people sustainably through FastPrayGive initiative.
- Desire to build WesleyMen, asked for help from all men present to help build it globally – encouraged to attend workshops at Conference.

Discussion

- How can churches in Nigeria partner with WesleyMen to help 2 million displaced young persons (by Boko Haram).

ACTION 23: Proposed that statement be made that WM family in solidarity and concerned about the pain and suffering of over 2 million people affected by terrorist activities of Boko Haram. REFERRED TO SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

- It takes \$8/month to feed 1 person 1 meal a day for a month through Stop Hunger Now.

XXI. Introduction of Ecumenical Visitors – Dr. Robert Gribben

- Representative of the Vatican (PCPCU), Father Tony Currer was introduced. Father Currer represents the Roman Catholic Church.

XXII. Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem Report – Rev. Thomas Kemper

- Office opened Oct. 2012 – Vision is to engage the World Methodist family in Christ's ministry of peace, justice, truth, and mercy among all people living in this land in partnership with the Palestinian Christian community. Inspired by address of Archbishop Chacour Elias in 2011 when he called to engage with "living stone" in Palestine & Israel.
- Organizing groups to experience people in area, foster advocacy and awareness, mission work.
- Advent devotions from the Holy Land are available from office, on website.
- Partners include: British Methodist Church, World Methodist Council, United Methodist Church; encouraged other churches to join in coordinating

XXIII. World Methodist Historical Society – Dr. Robert Williams, Dr. Ulrike Schuler

- Will hold bus excursion during Conference.
- Dr. Williams has retired, welcomed new General Secretary of UMC Archives and History, Dr. Ted Day.
- Dr. Schuler stressed importance of sharing each other's history, archives. In Europe, historical society changed from just UMC to include churches within European Methodist Council.
- Encouraged those for whom English is not first language, translation is underway to translate Wesley's works. Could be done at church/seminary level, with students. Discuss, interpret in local language, ultimately use in local congregations.
- Receive the bulletin electronically; sign up with Dr. Williams.

ACTION 24: Dr. Robert Williams moved that the treasurer of WMC become custodian of WMHS funds; and moved approval of proposal of WMHS/WMC agreement [2016a GEN WMHS 02]. APPROVED

XXIV. Epworth Old Rectory – Sarah Friswell

- Report can be found in 2016a GEN EOR 01
- Financial support necessary for work at EOR

ACTION 25: S. Friwell proposed WMC nominated trustees: Ivan Abrahams (ex officio), Rev. Dr. John Byers, Archbishop Michael Stephen, Mr. Kirby Hickey, Rev. Fred Day (new General Secretary for GCAH of the UMC). Joshua Rathnam 2nd. APPROVED

Discussion

EOR belongs to all of Methodist/Wesleyan family and needs to be supported.

XXV. Methodist Ecumenical Office in Rome – will give report to incoming Council

XXVI. World Methodist Museum Report – Jackie Bolden, director

- WM Museum is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2016, with events such as a birthday party open to the public, and anniversaries of 200 years since Francis Asbury's death, and 225 years since John Wesley's death.
- WM Museum houses the rarest and largest collection of Methodist/Wesleyan materials on the planet.
- New Exhibits featured:
 - o Unveiling of portrait of Helenor Davis, an early Circuit Rider in North America.

- o Special exhibit about Francis Asbury featuring rare letters and items.
- The museum reaches more than 2,000 young people from confirmation class, and the Susanna Wesley Garden is also used for events
- Volunteers are being trained to assist with tours.
- Friends of the Museum have become more active.
- Items are available for loan, or the museum can also accept loans of items.
- The Methodist museum belongs to the Council.

XXVII. Invitation to the 22nd World Methodist Conference

Rev. Lasse Svensson, President of the Uniting Church in Sweden/Equemeniakyrkan, issued an invitation to the Council to hold the 22nd World Methodist Conference in 2021 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The year 2021 will be the city's 400th birthday. Equemeniakyrkan formed in 2011 from Swedish Mission Covenant, Swedish Baptist Union, and United Methodist Church in Sweden. It is a member of the WMC, Baptist World Alliance, and World Communion of Reformed Churches, and is an affiliate member of The UMC. Equemeniakyrkan has about 750 congregations with 65,000 confessing members.

Support for the Conference will also come from The United Methodist Church in Norway and Denmark. Bishop Christian Alsted expressed joy in supporting Equemeniakyrkan to host the Conference.

XXVIII. Report of the Nominating Committee

Bishop Lockmann noted that letters were sent to all 80 member churches, yet from those only 20 responded to the request for committee chairs; 28 churches responded to the request for officers. He encouraged more churches to participate so that the Nominating Committee can do their work effectively.

Dr. Yvonne Tracey presented the slate of the Nominating Committee. The full report will be provided with minutes of the Council meeting (2016a NOM 03).

XXIX. Members of Finance Committee

The Council adopted the slate that identified Geneva and General Secretaries as staff to Finance committee, 7 officers of Council, and Treasurer/CFO. The Nominating Committee brings the following nominations to comply with clause the clause in the bylaws Sec. 8.c.1 "plus/not less than 5 or more than 9 members elected by council." Priority in selecting members was gender, geography, diversity of member churches:

1. Mrs Thini Ngonyama (MCSA)
2. Bishop Frank Madison Reid III (AME Church)*

3. Bishop N.L. Karkare (MC India)
4. Rev. Dr. Roe Nall, Jr. (AMEZ Church)
5. Rev. Dr. Anthony Cobbali (MC Ghana)*

*These persons are also nominated as at-large members of the Council to increase its diversity (per bylaws 4.c.1-3). These persons are not currently delegates from their church for the 2016-21 quinquennium and so must be brought on the council to comply with bylaws requirement that finance committee members also be Council delegates.

XXX. Additional Nomination Committee Matters

- To provide more clarity and transparency, the Nominating Committee recommends Mr. Kirby Hickey as non-voting staff member to Audit Committee.
- Recommend Mr. James H. Humphry to serve on Audit committee.
- Mr. Øyvind Helliesen will serve on steering committee to be liaison to the Host Committee of the 22nd World Methodist Conference.

Discussion

- Four youth/young adult at-large delegates were named and approved the previous day.
- Concern raised over Treasurer/CFO serving as active member on Audit committee – inappropriate according to U.S. F.A.S. rules. The bylaws should be changed to address this.

ACTION 26: Moved to accept names of Finance Committee. Seconded. ACCEPTED

ACTION 27: Moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee . Seconded. ACCEPTED

XXXI. Other Business

ACTION 28: Youth and Young Adult Moved to accept the YYA Statement (Appendix 1). Approved.

The New Council may elect the Nominating Committee at its first meeting.

ACTION 29: Bishop Christian Alsted Moved that the Nominating Committee be elected at the first Council 4-5 Sept 2017. Parliamentarian ruled that it was the duty of the new Council to elect the Nominating Committee. The motion was PUT AND DEFEATED.

Adjourned

Appendix 1 - Statement from Youth and Young Adults

The biggest obstacle is ourselves.

Challenge- for every member church to move away from tokenistic youth work and towards real participation where young people have a say in the processes that directly affect them.

Young people deal with racism every day of their lives. Young people deal with gender inequality every day of their lives. Young people deal with the challenges of climate change every day of their lives. These same young people are instrumental in bringing about change in their local situation: It is the young students of Mexico who spearheaded the protests of injustices of their government, risking their own lives. It is the young people of Egypt that initiated the Arab spring, the #occupywallstreet movement and in South Africa, it is the young people who are spearheading the decolonisation process with #feesmustfall. Churches struggle to contribute constructively in these conversations. It is tragic that the young people who can affect change in broader civil society are unable to effectively affect the ecclesial space. Young people very rarely are included in the systems that inform the policies, theologies and spiritualities of the very churches who are struggling to speak meaningfully and prophetically to the larger socio-economic realities of the world.

This has to change.

Not just for the future of the church but for the present reality of the church. Young people have a faith, young people have a God and young people are changing the tide of injustice in the world. But we have to change the manner in which we include young people in the matters of faith. We must move away from tokenistic engagement that places the voices of young people and young adults into conferences and arenas that meet outside the 'main' event. Young people need to be involved in the processes of that make up the very heart of our denominations.

There is a particular challenge also to the global south. The global south boast that it has the fastest and largest presence of Christianity in the world. The Global South also has the largest concentration of 18-35 year olds in the world and yet these young people have no say in the decisions which impact the daily expression of their faith. Young people in the global South are almost never part of the policy making within their churches. So here is the challenge to the global South and to the rest of us gathered here. We have to change the way we include young people. In the next quinquennium, young persons must be included within delegations to council.

Appendix 2 - Statement Rejecting Religious Extremism

Our world appears more polarised, divided and divisive than ever and we are confronted with extremism and violence in new and terrifying ways. In the face of this extremism and violence, we believe there is a heightened urgency to reach the world for Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, and we urge Christians of all Traditions to commit themselves to grace filled action in relation to our sisters and brothers in other faith traditions. Further we reject all forms of violent extremism, recognising that human life is sacred and no one should be victimised, nor lives taken, by anyone in the name of religion.

Appendix 3 – News from the Various Regions

News from the Asia Pacific Region:

- Korean Peninsula – South Korea is facing nuclear threat from North Korea. Prayers for peace requested.
- Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia elected new National Superintendent two years ago (Rev. Rex Rigby) who was first indigenous Australian to lead any denomination in Australia.
- Formed South Pacific Conference of Wesleyan Methodist Church in 2012, which has brought great unity to denomination in Pacific islands, Australia, and New Zealand
- Establishment of Excelsior College in Sydney, part of global Christian learning community from Indiana Wesleyan University – first Christian university/college in the region.
- Uniting Church in Australia's college in Sydney has developed the new Alan Walker Lectureship in Mission, Evangelism and Leadership chaired by Ian Robinson.
- Methodist Church in Indonesia reports dispute between bishops offices. Northern bishop accused of corruption. Asked for prayer for reconciliation, and prayers for bishop of Southern area experiencing health problems. General Conference will occur next year.
- 4th Methodist Asian Conference held in Sri Lanka gathered in 2015. Former President of Asian Methodist Council, Bishop Taranath Sagar, passed away.
- Methodist Church of New Zealand held ecumenical conference organized by Samoan synod around environment and climate change in Pacific Region. Prayers from 3-13 September around Climate change in Pacific.
- Anglican Methodist Dialogue in New Zealand, following "Irish model". Interesting crossroads in conversation – wrestling with recognition of episcopal ministry in Methodist Church of New Zealand.
- Methodist Church in Samoa reports active work of Methodist Pacific Consultative Council held last year 2015. Still working and will meet again in two years.
- World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches will meet in July 2017 (seventh time), and invited General Secretary and President. Goal is to support one another in ministry around the world.

News from the European Region was shared including:

- Plea for help and prayers from Methodist Church in Italy following devastating earthquake
- British Methodist Church is seeking to strengthen partnerships with other member churches

- Wesleyan Church General Conference, Joanne Lyon named as Ambassador for Wesleyan Church, Wayne Schmidt elected as General Superintendent.
- Bishop Kehgay shared about Ukraine and Russia conflict; country divided, war continues. Methodist Churches in Eastern Ukraine which have become refugees. Grateful to partners who helped relocate refugees. Important to stay united as Christians. Situation remains difficult, jobs are few and there is still a lot of uncertainty. In Russia, evangelism and missionary activities are being restricted.
- Piotr Gashrowski (sp) from Wesleyan Church in Poland shared about European Union Parliament's invitation them to working group to help address immigration and refugees due to Methodist influence in history of social work in Europe.
- Doug Swanney shared about issues of closing borders of United Kingdom, and church's commitment to open relationships in Europe and around the world.
- African Methodist Episcopal/African Methodist Episcopal Zion/Christian Methodist Episcopal leadership has come together to form group called Black Methodists United in the U.S. to respond with scholarships/mentoring program for young people. CME in 2020 will celebration 150 years.
- John Stephens reported on ongoing work of Methodist Church in Ireland and Anglican/Church of Ireland covenant (2002) and in 2014 both agreed to recognize/interchange ministries for presbyters within the respective denominations.

News from the Africa Region was shared including:

- Africa Methodist Council – in formation since 1986; finally inaugurated in 2015
- Asked prayer for travel challenges due to
 - o Ebola crisis, thankful that crisis is lifting; church gave assistance and support
 - o Travel restrictions with visas, government restrictions; greatly affected young people.
- Facing great economic challenges, making it difficult for members to contribute to church finances
- Africa still the pride of the world with many resources, yet prone to exploitation; prayers asked for the African nations fighting against injustice.
- Prayers for drought, and brewing instabilities in Southern Africa.
- Protestant Methodist Church in Benin reported a movement of young people committed to Methodism, moving the church forward; MC Benin faced challenges with separation, president brought 2 sides together for reconciliation. In July, the church will hold conference and elect new leadership – requested prayers for the process.

