

## Interim Report on Hope in God's Future Consultation

### Basic Information

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<b>Status of Paper</b>	Final
<b>Action Required</b>	Information
<b>Draft Resolution</b>	n/a
<b>Alternative Options to Consider, if Any</b>	n/a

### Summary of Content

<b>Subject and Aims</b>	Reports on progress and sets out timeline for the Connexion-wide consultation on the draft Conference Statement on climate change 'Hope in God's Future'.
<b>Main Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus Groups</li> <li>• Online questionnaire</li> <li>• Analysis and Redrafting ready for Conference 2011</li> </ul>
<b>Background Context and Relevant Documents (with function)</b>	'Hope in God's Future' MC/09/10 was received by Conference 2009 and as a draft Conference Statement. It further resolved that Sections 1-4 of the report should be dealt with as a draft Conference Statement. (See MC/09/10 Resolutions 10/2 and 10/3 for details of the required process).
<b>Consultations</b>	The HiGF Consultation has so far involved focus groups in three Districts as well as consultation of the Youth Assembly. Governance Support and Faith and Order have been consulted regarding the consultation process itself

### Summary of Impact

<b>Standing Orders</b>	n/a
<b>Faith and Order</b>	n/a
<b>Financial</b>	n/a
<b>Personnel</b>	n/a
<b>Legal</b>	n/a
<b>Wider Connexional</b>	The Consultation will be online at <a href="http://www.methodist.org.uk/higf">www.methodist.org.uk/higf</a> from April - September 2010, with paper copies available from MCH Help Desk, and invite responses from all Methodist individuals, local churches, circuits and districts.
<b>External (e.g. ecumenical)</b>	n/a
<b>Risk</b>	The risk of not meeting the deadline for Conference 2011 has been mitigated by working out of a detailed timetable with all groups involved, and agreeing contributions from groups and individuals for the various stages well in advance

## Background to the Consultation

1. Methodist Conference has directed that parts 1 – 4 of the Report 'Hope in God's Future' (now considered a draft Statement of Conference) should be subject to a consultation of the Methodist people before it is brought before Conference in 2011 with suggested amendments. The stages of the consultation process are laid out below.
2. **Stage 1:** Focus groups in a range of Districts will be consulted to gather a wide range of views from different perspectives as to whether this report (as it stands or revised) should be a Conference Statement.  
**Stage 2:** Using the outcomes of the focus groups, a consultation questionnaire will be designed and made available so that all Methodists can give their views on the wording of the draft Statement by 30 September 2010. The questionnaire will be available in spring 2010 on the Methodist website ([www.methodist.org.uk/higf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/higf)) with paper copies available for those without internet access.  
**Stage 3.** After analysis of the results of both these stages, the Statement will be reconsidered and suggested changes and proposals made for presentation to the Conference in 2011 for its consideration. The aim is to end up with a Statement of Conference that the greatest number of Methodists will be happy to own as an official statement of their Church.

## Focus Groups

3. Focus groups have now been held in three Districts (Cumbria, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent, Southampton). Efforts were made to invite people with a range of perspectives and backgrounds, who were sent the draft Statement to read and prepare beforehand. The focus groups were facilitated and recorded by the research officers of the Connexional Team and were marked by serious engagement with the text of the draft Statement and respectful expression of a variety of views.
4. Young people also had a chance to put their views on the draft Statement at the 2009 Youth Assembly. At the time of writing two further focus groups are due to take place, one consisting of theological students at Wesley House Cambridge, and the other of church stewards based in Greater London.

## Online Questionnaire

5. This will be designed by the Connexional Team research officers (with additional input from a small group chosen from the Faith and Order network) using the outcomes of the focus groups to present suggested changes to the draft Statement to the Connexion. The results of the questionnaire will then provide quantitative data on the mind of the Methodist people.

6. This will be available on the Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.uk/higf](http://www.methodist.org.uk/higf) from April 2010 to September 2010. It will be promoted prominently on the Methodist website, in E-News, the Methodist Recorder, via the network of District Communication Officers, and other Methodist communication channels. Paper copies will be available on request for people without internet access from the MCH Help Desk.

### **Analysis of results and redrafting**

7. Analysis of results from the questionnaire will start in October 2010, and an early report from analysis will be sent to the Faith and Order network.
8. The redrafting committee, with members including Connexional Team research officers and others chosen in consultation with the Faith and Order secretary, will then produce a first draft of the Statement for the Feb 2011 Council. This will then go to the Faith and Order network so that any feedback from them can be incorporated and the report will be presented to April 2011 Council.
9. The draft Conference Statement will then be presented to Conference 2011, with suggested changes and proposals for its consideration.

### **Timeline of Consultation**

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| 10. Focus Groups to be completed                         | 31/01/2010  |
| Consultation questionnaire live on Methodist website     | tbc/04/2010 |
| Consultation questionnaire ends on Methodist website     | tbc/09/2010 |
| Initial report from analysis to F & O                    | 15/10/2010  |
| Draft report to Feb 2011 Council                         | 01/02/2011  |
| Draft report to F & O including any changes post Council | 08/02/2011  |
| Report to April 2011 Council                             | 01/04/2011  |
| Report to Conference                                     | 01/07/2011  |