

## AGENDA ITEM 62: MEMORIALS TO THE CONFERENCE

### M3: Housing (Pages 643-645)

#### *Replace reply with the following:*

The Conference thanks the London District Synod for its memorial, and for highlighting the current housing situation in its areas and across the UK. The Conference is troubled by the current levels of homelessness, numbers of people in temporary accommodation and shortage of affordable housing, and notes that the housing crisis impacts individuals and communities throughout the Connexion, in both urban and rural contexts. The Conference recognises that the Church can and should play a part in addressing the systemic causes of homelessness and the housing crisis, including through advocacy and practical responses.

The Conference therefore agrees with the general intentions of the memorials. It affirms that the provision of genuinely affordable homes and of emergency accommodation is an integral part of the mission of the Methodist Church as a sign of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and can further the purposes of the Methodist Church as an outworking of our commitment to be a justice seeking church. In living out the gospel of Jesus Christ, the provision of genuinely affordable homes and of emergency accommodation may be a powerful response to this call.

The Conference recognises the rich heritage of the Methodist Church and celebrates the work that Methodist churches, circuits, districts and others are engaged in to meet local housing need, including emergency accommodation. The Conference strongly encourages the Methodist people to consider what more they can do to tackle the housing and homelessness crisis in their area.

The Conference reminds churches, Circuits and Districts that the Property Support Team is available to support Managing Trustees in considering how they can use property and land missionally, including to address housing need and homelessness.

The Conference also notes that for a variety of reasons, including the legal frameworks within which charities have to operate, this is not always straightforward work to pursue. For that reason, the Conference believes that a review should be undertaken to understand and clarify the legal, procedural, practical and resourcing issues involved in enabling Methodist buildings and land to be used to meet housing need.

The Conference notes that learning may be gathered from ecumenical partners around these questions, particularly from the work that has been undertaken in the Church of England following the report of the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community (2021), which was supported by the Methodist Church.

The Conference therefore directs the Connexional Council to undertake a review of the issues highlighted in the memorial and report to the Conference in 2026. It is recognised that this will require input from various stakeholders across the Connexion.

---

#### **The Role and Purpose of the Presbyteral Session:**

#### **Report from the Presbyteral Session to the Representative Session of the Conference**

The Presbyteral Session engaged in a discursive conversation about Agenda Item 17. It noted among other points that 20 years (in which much has changed) have elapsed since the 2006 review, that the conferring in this year's Conference had been rich and relevant to the global situation, and that some members feel that the opportunity to be part of the Conference in some way should be made more widely available to presbyters. It also reflected on the