

God in Love Unites Us

Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group

The Leadership of *Dignity and Worth* warmly welcomes the Report of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, 'God in Love Unites us', which has now been published on the Methodist Church website

[<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/11629/conf-2019-10-marriage-and-relationships-task-group-2019.pdf>].

We have followed closely the work of the Task Group since it was set up by the Methodist Conference of 2016 and have committed ourselves to praying regularly for their work. We know that every member of the Group has given of themselves and made themselves vulnerable in the work they have undertaken on behalf of the whole Church, and we record our deep thanks.

The report is a careful consideration of the nature of human relationships in the light of our covenant with God. It takes seriously both Scripture and the current realities with which most people in Britain – inside and outside the Church – live. It also outlines the process by which the Methodist people will be invited to decide to allow ministers and local churches to register to conduct same-sex marriages.

We recognise that, for some in our church, this will involve difficulties, and are grateful that resource materials to assist local conversations are already in production. We are delighted that the Report endorses the position of Dignity and Worth in terms of a 'mixed economy' as the best way to honour the consciences of those who cannot take this step.

The question of conscience in these matters is a serious one and we welcome the work that has been done to ensure that no-one is coerced to act against their will. We welcome any initiative that reassures our sisters and brothers who feel that this is not a position they can hold.

Now that the report is available, we call on our members to download it and read it carefully. We will, in due course, produce a more detailed response to its recommendations, but urge as many people across the Connexion as possible to study the contents in order to engage both in the debates in Conference and in discussions locally. [statement ends]



Dignity and Worth is a group of Methodists & Wesleyans – LGBTQI+ and allies, all genders and ethnicities, lay and ordained, from Britain, Ireland and around the world – committed to act for Gospel justice in our church and society. We commit to uphold the dignity and worth of every person, including those who hold different theological views, and to work openly for greater equality in the Methodist Church in Great Britain, Ireland and worldwide. We will work in our local contexts for the full and active participation of LGBTQI+ people in the Church, including same-sex marriage.

<https://dignityandworth.org.uk/>

Contact: Revd Sam McBratney 07706 586860 sam@dignityandworth.org.uk