

c/o 23 Chaffinch Close
Congleton
CW12 3FE
June 2021

Dear Church Council Secretary / Church Steward / Minister / MET Member,

Greetings to you and to our sisters and brothers within your church.

We send this copy of *The Runaway Train* to you, standing together fully in support of its claim that the proposals of *God In Love Unites Us* - which will be voted on at Conference this year - are both unbiblical and unconstitutional. The booklet sets out the ways in which the Methodist Church has, over the last three decades, lost control as it has travelled along its pilgrimage of faith.

This is a call to the Methodist Conference to remain faithful to the current teaching of the Church. We urge you to read it and to make your views known to your District's Conference Representatives. We would be very grateful for your help in getting *The Runaway Train* to your representatives: please forward your copy, ask for additional ones, or send the electronic download available from www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/runaway-train.

The *God In Love Unites Us* proposals redefine marriage to include same-sex couples, allow Methodist premises to be used for the solemnisation of same-sex marriages and the blessing of civil partnerships, and affirm cohabitation (that is, sexual intimacy outside of marriage). While many within Methodism affirm some or all of these proposals, there are also many within the Methodist Church who do not support them. Sadly, several members, Local Preachers and Ministers, and even entire congregations, have already left the Methodist Church over the direction of travel it has so far adopted. If the proposals are ratified at Conference 2021, there are likely to be many more who will feel conscience-bound to leave.

We hope that the booklet will also be helpful to local churches if, after the Conference, they must decide whether or not they wish to open their premises to

same-sex marriages and blessings. We would therefore be very grateful if you would read this letter and alert your Church Council members to the availability of *The Runaway Train* at your next Church Council meeting.

This mailing has been enabled by the generous donations of those who have given specifically for this purpose. Further copies are available from Derek: 07958 549146 / development@methodistevangelicals.org.uk and can be downloaded from www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/runaway-train.

Further Remaining Faithful resources are available from www.methodistevangelicals.org.uk/remaining-faithful. Ministers, members and churches who are committed to remaining faithful to the original Wesleyan evangelical vision and to the biblical and apostolic understanding of marriage as the life-long union of one man and one woman and the only appropriate context for sexual intimacy are welcome to join the Remaining Faithful Network mailing list by emailing development@methodistevangelicals.org.uk.

The Remaining Faithful Network is a partnership of Methodist Evangelicals Together and The Voice of Methodism Association. We stand in an honoured tradition of evangelical witness within the Methodist Church. In 1993 the Conference clarified its teaching on marriage and relationships, remaining faithful to the traditional teaching of the Christian church. Prior to that vote, three leading evangelical Methodist ministers wrote to every minister across the Connexion, urging them and their churches to call upon the Conference to reaffirm the Church's traditional teaching. We now do the same.

Yours sincerely,



The Revd Derek Balsdon
Development Worker
Methodist Evangelicals Together



The Revd David Miller
Chair
The Voice of Methodism Association

