

**THE METHODIST CHURCH IN IRELAND**

**FAITH AND ORDER COMMITTEE**

**WORKING PARTY ON HUMAN SEXUALITY**

**1. Establishment and Terms of Reference**

The Working Party was established by the Faith & Order Committee on 4 October, 2014. The Terms of Reference are as follows:

- (i) To undertake a fundamental review of Christian teaching on human sexuality and practice and on that basis to formulate the standards required for membership of the MCI, and for holding any office of leadership in the MCI and to outline the disciplines required in regard to sexual behaviour by any member or office holder in good standing in the Church.
- (ii) In undertaking the review set out above, to examine afresh how Holy Scripture may be faithfully interpreted in the MCI in respect of issues concerning human sexuality and , in particular, homosexuality and in the light of the major Biblical and theological themes respecting Creation and New Creation.
- (iii) To bring forward an Interim Discussion Paper to the Faith & Order Committee in 2015 with a view to possible decisions by the Committee as to whether (a) such a Discussion Paper might fruitfully be brought to Conference with a recommendation for discussion by, and responses from, the whole Connexion and (b) and, subsequently, whether such Connexional reflections and considered responses might inform a draft Conference Statement on Human Sexuality and Christian Faith and Practice, which may be brought to Conference in 2017 or subsequently.
- (iv) To have particular regard to the deliberations in other Christian Churches on matters concerning Human Sexuality including members Churches in the World Methodist Council; in particular, to seek to liaise closely with the Select Committee on Human Sexuality in the Context of Christian Belief established by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 2014 with a view to sharing in the task of discernment underway in both Churches.