

Resolutions

1. Inclusive churches

The Churches and their Ministry section call on the churches of the Union of Welsh Independents to strive to be fully inclusive. We want to foster an ethos where attitudes, culture, language, and systems reflect the inclusive love of Christ. We want to be a voice for the voiceless, standing up for justice, dignity, and equality for all. We appeal for your support as we work to create practical and spiritual guidance, by providing resources that will support churches to put this vision into practice.

Proposer: Revd Beti-Wyn James

Seconder: Sian Meinir

On behalf of the Churches and their Ministry Section of the Union Council.

2. Adoption of a declaration by the Union

The Citizenship Section would like to propose the following declaration for adoption by the Union.

Potential declaration for the annual conference of the Union of Welsh Independents

We regret that those who profess Jesus of Nazareth as Lord support the blood-stained efforts of the Israeli government, with the support of the USA, to extend its borders at the expense of its neighbours. The continuation of the conflict in the Middle East and Iran poses a huge threat to the future of Palestinian culture and identity. We do not believe that what is written in the Book of Genesis justifies genocide and ethnic cleansing in the Middle East. We believe that it is by following the way of Jesus, the ways of righteousness and justice, that the will of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is manifested.

There are also other wars throughout the world and all of them, separately and together, are killing God's children in their thousands; Communities are obliterated, livelihoods are destroyed; they cause and intensify poverty while some individuals and companies make profits at the expense of killing and destruction.

We as the Union of Welsh Independents declare that war is inherently destructive. We affirm that a commitment to peace is essential. We do so, not because we share the same political convictions or profess the same theological beliefs; no, we stand together despite our varying convictions and beliefs to declare, as one, that all wars are contrary to the spirit and teachings of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, Lord to us all.

In this, the revelation of God as chronicled in the New Testament is our authority. The culmination of that revelation is the Cross of Christ. Through the Cross hostility is destroyed in order to create reconciliation and true peace. From the beginning, in war, enemies are defeated without eliminating enmity. War is followed by a ceasefire and not true peace. Some may say that this is folly and shows weakness, but we believe that is the wisdom of God and divine strength. This is the ministry to which we were called to in Christ. 'All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God' (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

It is a practical ministry. An active, not negative, ministry. The essence of our pacifism is not to abstain and be inactive, but to insist on taking a stance not so much against war, but rather for peace. The power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not that it says 'No' to war but that it says a fervent and consistent 'Yes' to all attempts at reconciliation in all circles.

Proposer: Revd Robin Samuel

Seconder: Revd Jeff Williams

On behalf of the Citizenship Section of the Union Council.

3. Tŷ John Penri for the future

The Administrative Committee requests conference to allow it to discuss the current suitability of Tŷ John Penri for the future. We need to respond to the times and in that spirit we propose this as a starting point in fostering a positive and flexible mindset for the continuation and growth of the Union and its churches. We are requesting that we be permitted to take action, if appropriate (whether that is by adapting the current building or moving to another site if that would be advantageous).

Proposer: Dr Fiona Gannon

Seconder: Revd Jeff Williams

On behalf of the Administrative Committee.

Recommendations / Proposals from the Sections

There are two recommendations in the reports of the Administrative Committee (see appendix to the minutes of the Administrative Committee April 2026, p. 32)

1. The Administrative Committee recommends a 5% increase from 1 January 2027 for all those receiving income from the Union or its churches. However, in the face of the current economic uncertainty, the Administrative Committee requests the right in to confirm the percentage in the autumn, or if necessary, adjust it in light of any changes in circumstances.
2. The Administrative Committee requests that the annual recommendation for wages be moved to the previous autumn so that it can better reflect the situation regarding price and wage inflation nationally at the time the recommendation is made.