**MEMORIAL TO CONFERENCE FROM THE WEST NORFOLK CIRCUIT**

The West Norfolk Circuit Meeting is concerned about the way in which Methodist statistics are recorded in Local Ecumenical Partnerships. The wording on the statistical returns website is as follows:-

*Please indicate how many LEP members (if any) are specifically members of the Methodist Church, i.e. not “joint” or “ecumenical” members, or members of other denominations. If all LEP members are “joint” or “ecumenical” members write “0” (zero).*

The West Norfolk Circuit Meeting is concerned about this for two reasons.

1. There would appear to be a potential risk that “joint” or “ecumenical” members are not included in our Methodist statistics at all.
2. The use of the word “specifically”. Members received into the Methodist Church at a joint Anglican/Methodist confirmation service are just as much Methodist members as those received through traditional Methodist confirmation/reception into membership. So, a minister in our circuit sharing in a confirmation service with a bishop (and following the guidelines in CPD and the advice of the Connexional Ecumenical Officer) would always, immediately following the confirmation, explicitly and specifically before the gathered congregation receive those who have been jointly confirmed as members of the Methodist Church. Because of the way in which the word “specifically” is defined above an LEP in our circuit does not record members received through “joint confirmation” as Methodist members. Hence the risk referred to in i) above.

The Circuit invites those responsible for the statistical returns, the Connexional Ecumenical Officer and the Faith and Order Committee to consider these questions and to respond.

*Agreed at the West Norfolk Circuit Meeting on 13th March 2019*

For: 37
Against: 1
Abstentions: 5