

## 50. Oversight and Trusteeship

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| <b>Resolutions</b>              | See end of Report.  |

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1** This report builds on the work that has been done by or brought to the Conference over the last seven years. A fuller history of the process was included in the 2023 report, 57. Oversight and Trusteeship,<sup>1</sup> taking its starting point for the current phase of reform as 2017. Members of the Conference may want to consult the reports that have been brought to the Conference in the intervening period in order fully to understand (or to refresh their memories about) this stream of work.
- 1.2** In brief, those reports are:  
2018 discussion paper 'Reaffirming *Our Calling*: the future call of the Methodist Church'.  
2019: 'Reaffirming *Our Calling*'  
2020 'Reaffirming *Our Calling*: Oversight and Trusteeship'.  
2021 'Oversight and Trusteeship'  
2022 'Oversight and Trusteeship'  
2023 'Oversight and Trusteeship'
- 1.3** The changing nomenclature in no way indicates any less of a commitment to *Our Calling* in the later reports. For all that this process has necessarily explored in detail questions of committee structure, methods of appointment, trustee responsibility, legal compliance, and methods of conferring, those who have worked on the various task groups have been mindful that the mission of the Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship. The question before those groups has never simply been 'How do we create an efficient and effective structure to comply with our responsibilities as a charity?' Rather, it has been, 'What structures enable us effectively and nimbly to be compliant in our trustee responsibilities in order that we might serve the mission of God in our age and place?'
- 1.4** In many ways, that question was answered in the 2022 Conference when the creation of the Connexional Council was referred to the Synods for ratification.

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1 2023 Conference Agenda Item 57. Oversight and Trusteeship

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From 1 September 2024, the Connexional Council will be the trustee body for the connexional business of the Methodist Church in Great Britain. The Conference is asked this year to confirm the amendments to the Model Trusts provisionally adopted last year, and to adopt the Standing Orders under which the council will work.

- 1.4.1** A draft of those Standing Orders is included in the appendices to this report. It might be helpful to the reader to note that because of the movement of material from other parts of *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* (CPD) into these sections, there has been considerable renumbering. Where possible, the number of the comparative Standing Order (SO) in 2023 has been included in square brackets.
- 1.4.2** Inevitably, some of the Standing Orders have also been subject to proposed revision by other bodies. Where that revision is extensive and, in the view of the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group (OTTG), may possibly generate considerable conversation in the Conference, the section or part of a section has been omitted with a note to where else in the Agenda material might be found. Where the OTTG believes that the changes are relatively minor and/or uncontroversial and where the OTTG is supportive of the change, the revised wording is included in this report. The Law and Polity Subcommittee will, of course, advise the Conference where an amendment or the adoption of the resolutions to this report necessitates an amendment to the text of or a decision in relation to another report, and vice-versa.
- 1.5** Whilst extensive work has been done by the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group and our colleagues on the Law and Polity Committee, and many difficult issues have been resolved, there is a number of outstanding questions on which the Conference needs to give its opinion.
- 1.5.1** One is the issue of a quorum for the Connexional Council. The membership of the council has been set by the Conference as between 18 and 22 persons, eight of whom will be *ex officio*, as set out in categories (i)-(vii) in draft Standing Order 200(1)(b). (Since the draft Standing Order presented last year for the constitution of the Connexional Council, the OTTG has considered and decided to recommend that the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee should also be an *ex officio* member of the Connexional Council, given this important aspect of and perspective on the Trustees' work.) Whilst it is implied by the Charity Commission that in the interests of good governance a charity should set a minimum number of trustees who have to participate in a decision, the custom of the Methodist Church in Great Britain

(MCB) has been to require that all trustees be given ample opportunity to attend and contribute in an informed manner to a meeting and to regard that as being sufficient to ensure that decisions are taken in an appropriate and representative manner.

- 1.5.2** There are, therefore, no requirements in the Standing Orders for trust bodies to have a quorum. However, the level of responsibility (and therefore of risk) carried by the Connexional Council is such that the OTTG recommends to the Conference that the council has authority to make decisions only when at least twelve of its members are present. Aside from the various precedents for the number, the OTTG notes that whilst the total membership of the council might vary from year to year, this figure would never be more than two thirds nor less than half of the total membership.
- 1.5.3** The OTTG debated whether there should be any distinction in setting the quorum between the *ex officio* members and others and determined that there should not be. Such a distinction could be unhelpful as the council develops its ways of working and might imply a difference in perspective for which there is no evidence.
- 1.5.4** The Conference is asked to agree to the establishment of a quorum and to the method of calculating it, or to direct that another approach be taken.
- 1.6** The OTTG also recommends that there be specific provision for the Conference, in the unlikely event it deemed it necessary, to bring to an early end the term of office of the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Connexional Council. Such a termination would need to be undertaken by the Conference but the question might arise between meetings of the Conference and could not be left until the Conference next assembled.
- 1.7** The OTTG therefore proposes a draft Standing Order by which no less than a tenth of the Conference membership could ask for a termination process to be set in train and for a panel of the Conference to determine the question on the Conference's behalf. The draft is included with the other proposed Standing Orders below.
- 1.8** Previous Conferences have approved at various points terms of reference for the bodies that will report to the Conference or Connexional Council. The OTTG feels that it is important to stress that those bodies are bound to work under the provisions of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders where those are provided and that terms of reference and Standing Orders are not the

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same thing. It therefore brings the draft Standing Orders for Parts 2 and 3 with the understanding that:

- a) All committees, working parties and task groups will need a 'Ways of Working' document of some sort. Apart from bodies which are required to do their work with the regulation of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders (ie, the Conference itself (which works under the Deed and SO131) and Synods), these bodies should normally agree their own ways of working (provided, of course, that these accord with CPD and terms of reference set by the Conference, Council or the committee which established them or to which they report).
- b) Those committees, working parties and task groups whose functions are not detailed in the Standing Orders (including those which are not listed in the Standing Orders) or for which the Standing Orders prescribe that terms of reference should be set, and those which are created by the council or its main committees either as standing committees or groups created for particular pieces of work, should have terms of reference agreed by the body which appoints their members or to which they report (or both). Such terms of reference will not normally need to be included in CPD (though, again, must be consonant with it).
- c) Not every committee will need terms of reference in addition to the Standing Orders and, following further reflection this year, the OTTG believes that it can be confusing if such terms are created where detailed Standing Orders exist or are still needed. They will, however (point a) above) need to agree ways of working which, for the sake of transparency, should be included in or appended to the committee's reports.

**1.9** For a number of reasons, the OTTG has not been able to complete all the work that it hoped to complete this year. In particular, whilst the principle of the three main committees having flexibility in the creation and revision of groups that report to them, the work of revising existing committees is still ongoing. In addition to the Methodist Council and the Strategy and Resources Committee (the Connexional Council being the successor body for both), some committees have now been wound up and their work transferred, including:

- The Connexional Allowances Committee, whose work will come under the oversight of the Resourcing Committee
- The Property Development Committee, whose work will come under the oversight of the Resourcing Committee

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- The Finance Subcommittee of the SRC, whose work will come under the oversight of the Resourcing Committee
- The Pay and Grading Committee of the SRC, whose work will come under the oversight of the Resourcing Committee.
- The Medical Committee, the work of which was agreed by the Council no longer to be needed in the light of changes to the Standing Orders on candidates for the ministry and supernumeraries reflecting evolving understanding and practice.

**1.10** The OTTG therefore recognises that the work for which it was brought into being is far from complete. The final section of this report contains a proposal for the appointment of a task group for 2024-25 in order that the work that remains outstanding can be brought to the 2025 Conference. The OTTG believes that little is served by discontinuity at this point in a lengthy process, and therefore the majority of those who are nominated to be part of the 2024-25 OTTG have served on the OTTG or its predecessor bodies. Accordingly, for the benefit of continuity, the OTTG requests that the Conference appoints those who are being nominated.

### **2. Nominations Committee**

**2.1** As directed by the 2023 Conference, the Nominations Committee has met during the year to produce nominations for the membership of the Connexional Council and Resourcing Committee. It has also sought to strengthen its own membership.

**2.2** The report of the Nominations Committee is contained elsewhere in the Agenda.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**50/1. The Conference receives Sections 1 and 2 of the Report.**

**50/2. The Conference adopts the recommendation at paragraph 1.5.4.**  
*The specific provision is contained in draft Standing Order 200(1)(b) in Appendix A below.*

**50/3. The Conference adopts the recommendations at paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7.**  
*The specific provisions are contained in draft Standing Order 200(4)(b) – (f) in Appendix A below.*

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### 3. New Parts 2 and 3 of Standing Orders and related matters

#### The drafting of Parts 2 and 3

3.1 The creation of the Connexional Council has necessitated far-reaching amendments to the Standing Orders, as well as amendments to the Model Trusts (provisionally adopted last year and reported to the Conference in the Special Resolutions report elsewhere in the Agenda). Much of the task of the OTTG, and in particular the members of the group appointed to it by the Law and Polity Committee, has been to work carefully through the proposed revisions. The principal task has been to replace the existing Parts 2, 3 and 10 of Standing Orders by new Parts 2 and 3, to reflect the creation of the Council, its relationship with the Conference, and the committees which report to the Conference or the Connexional Council (or both).

3.2 However, the group notes that in response to the developing mission and ministry of the Church, the revision of the committee structure of the Church is still work in progress: the details of the various committees' responsibilities will begin to be worked out and consideration given to how much still needs to be prescribed by Standing Orders in 2024-25. Consequently, whilst in the revision here offered to the Conference the contents of Parts 2, 3 and 10 have been considerably rearranged, to align with the new relationships involved, much of the actual text of those existing Parts remains unaltered, at least for the forthcoming year. The Conference is asked to note, furthermore, that a more in-depth review of other Parts of Standing Orders is envisaged by the Law and Polity Committee in the coming years.

For ease of reading, the OTTG sets out below the new Parts 2 and 3 in full, in Appendix A. Wherever possible, references to where the particular provisions previously appeared have been included in square brackets. Where there is no such reference, the provision contains entirely or mostly new material. However, for ease of reading, Parts 2 and 3 have been set out in the Appendix in plain text; the only use of the bold italic and strikethrough conventions is to indicate amendments in *existing* material which has been taken over into the new Parts (most of such changes being minor cross-references, with any significant policy points being mentioned in the body of this report), although it needs also to be noted that clauses within SOs have been renumbered to deal with previous additions and deletions.

In a few instances, an editorial note has been included for the guidance of the Conference. As is customary, these notes do not form part of the text being proposed for adoption.

### Consequential amendments to the text of Standing Orders

- 3.3** Besides the production of the above parts, there has been the major task of examining the rest of the Standing Orders to see what consequential amendments of wording (running into hundreds) are then required. This list appears in Appendix B. It would be unhelpful to try to set out the full text of all the amendments in full, but they fall into several categories. The approach that has been taken is as follows:
- 3.4** There are points where it seems clear that “Methodist Council” should be replaced by “Connexional Council” and they are listed in the Appendix.
- 3.5** There are other areas where particular functions of the Methodist Council should not now fall within the ambit of the Connexional Council, because the main focus of the council must be its trustee responsibilities and it does not have the same ‘representative’ nature as the Methodist Council. In some instances the Conference, or one of its officers, is now the appropriate body to exercise the particular functions. In others, it will be appropriate for the Council’s three main committees (Mission, Ministries and Resourcing) to deal with these matters directly (reporting, where appropriate, to the Conference). However, in some of those instances it has been thought better to assign such functions formally to the Connexional Council for the time being, rather than embodying the changes in Standing Orders this year, on the basis that the council will at its inception delegate them to such committee as is thought appropriate, and with the expectation that after review during the coming year any necessary Standing Order changes will then be brought.
- 3.6** The other main group of amendments comprises an assortment of provisions which are needed to give effect to the general intentions of the legislation. They are set out below with any necessary explanation.
- 3.7** The opportunity has been taken, whenever possible, to amend the text being dealt with to reflect the Conference’s commitment to gender neutral language.

### Cross-referencing

- 3.8** There are many cross-referencing amendments which will need to be made, by the time that *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* (CPD) is published in the summer, simply to deal with the changed numbering in Parts 2 and 3. Rather than setting them all out in the Agenda - and bearing in mind any further changes which would need to be made as a result of possible amendments made by the Conference itself - it is proposed that the Conference Officer for Legal and

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Constitutional Practice, in her capacity as editor of CPD, be directed to make all such cross-reference amendments as are necessary.

- 3.9** The same consideration applies to whatever cross-references are necessary (either of numbering, or of text consequential upon what the Conference may adopt as the new Parts 2 and 3) in Books IV to VII of CPD (principally the Guidance Section). It is proposed that a similar resolution is adopted for that purpose.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

- 50/4.** The Conference receives Section 3 of the Report.
- 50/5.** The Conference revokes Parts 2, 3 and 10 of Standing Orders, and replaces them by Parts 2 and 3, as set out in Appendix A below.
- 50/6.** The Conference makes the consequential amendments to the remainder of Standing Orders as set out in Appendix B below.
- 50/7.** The Conference directs the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice to make such amendments of the numerical cross-references in Standing Orders generally as are necessary to accord with the changes made by the adoption of Resolutions 50/5 and 50/6 above.
- 50/8.** The Conference further directs the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice to amend, where necessary, the text of Books IV to VII of *Constitutional Practice and Discipline* for the same purpose.
- 50/9.** The Conference directs that the changes made by the adoption of Resolutions 50/5 and 50/6 above shall come into effect from 1 September 2024.

### **4. District Leadership**

- 4.1** The move towards larger Districts, including District mergers and amalgamations, is leading towards new ways of being a District and new patterns of officers serving them. This particularly applies to the roles of Chairs of District and those who deputise for them or assist them, and more generally to the principles of shared and collaborative district leadership. Over the years a wide range of patterns have emerged which are increasingly divergent, and that tendency is likely to increase under the new developments. Care must therefore be taken to ensure that arrangements can be tailored to suit the context of an individual District, but within a consistent connexional pattern.



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- 4.2** The matter was previously before the 2021 Conference which by Resolution 30/10 directed the Methodist Council to review the provisions of Standing Order 426 in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee. This was partly connected to the (then) emerging proposal that all Districts should move to regional reconfigurations (which was not received by the 2022 Conference, albeit SO 401 continues to permit individual Districts to amalgamate if they desire), and partly related also to wider questions about the nature of District leadership. The Faith and Order Committee has reported separately on the issue of District leadership (see Agenda item 28). Given these wider considerations, and notwithstanding that Resolution 44/20c of the 2022 Conference directed the OTTG to consider the matter further (as was also acknowledged in Section A of the 2023 Conference OTTG report), it was not possible for the OTTG to bring final proposals for the amendment or development of SO 426 to this or previous Conferences. However, alertness to this has not been lost: the OTTG here makes initial recommendations with the expectancy that final proposals will be brought if possible in 2025.
- 4.3** The relevant Standing Order, SO 426, makes provisions for a Synod to appoint one or more people to act as deputies to the Chair [Clauses (1) and (3)].
- 4.3.1** As the role of Chair involves exercising pastoral responsibility, ministerial oversight, and some forms or expressions of pastoral charge, these deputies are to be presbyters in the active work stationed in the District concerned [Clause 2(ii)]. Being “in the active work” and having regard to Deed of Union Clause 1 (iA), means that they cannot be a supernumerary or without appointment, and it is inferred that they may be Recognised and Regarded (under DU 45 and SO 732), but cannot be an Authorised (or Associate) Presbyter (under SO 733 or 733A)). Given silence on the point, they may apparently be full-time in this role or part-time.
- 4.3.2** Their role is to perform the duties specified in a role description approved by the Synod [Clause (2)(i)]. The Standing Order does not specify what those duties should be, but it does specify that they cannot include anything that the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union or the Model Trusts expressly state can only be performed by the Chair of District. The only thing that can easily be found to be without exception in that category is that another presbyter cannot substitute for a Chair of District in the membership of the Conference (clause 14(2)(v) of the Deed of Union).
- 4.4** Secondly, SO 426 makes provision for a Chair to appoint other people “to assist him or her” [Clause (5)]. The language is important here. Some Districts have adopted the terminology of ‘Assistant Chairs’. That is understandable in common

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speech, but the language of the Standing Order would suggest that technically it would be more correct to refer to them instead as 'Chair's Assistants'. Assisting the Chair in this way may involve a range of duties other than those of exercising presbyteral oversight and forms of pastoral responsibility or charge. This is demonstrated by the fact that the people appointed to this role may be other than presbyters in the active work. Standing Order 426(6) allows for both ordained and lay possibilities.

- 4.4.1** If ministers, they have to "reside in the District for the purposes of the stations" [SO 426(6)(i)]. Standing Orders 005(vi), (vii) and 785(4)(a) imply that this encompasses presbyters or deacons who are in the active work, those who are authorised ministers, those in appointments not within the control of the Church, those without appointment, or those who are supernumeraries; but not those residing for the purposes of the stations within the categories referred to in SO 785(8)(c) or (d). In suggesting amendments below to this category of those who assist Chairs and contribute to the leadership of a District, it is proposed to narrow the possible classes of minister involved to those in the active work who are stationed in the District (although those outside the District should be able to apply but would need to be stationed in the District on appointment to the role).
- 4.4.2** Alternatively those appointed as 'Chair's Assistants' have to be members in the District concerned. That means that they can be lay people.
- 4.5** Going forwards, a consistent intent has been to retain Deputy Chairs, but to be clearer about the role(s) of Chair's Assistants/Assistant Chairs, and not least to acknowledge that such roles may contribute to or have a share in the leadership of the District as a whole (whether lay or ordained), rather than merely 'assisting' the District Chair, even if that is conceptually or practically part of the role. Further considerations follow regarding the possible nature, purpose and terminology of the different roles.
- 4.6** Deputy Chairs will share with the Chair(s) of a District in the Chair's presbyteral duties of maintaining Methodist order and discipline [SO 424(2)]; exercising oversight of the character and fidelity of the presbyters and presbyteral probationers in the District [SO 424(3)]; stationing; being a pastor to the ministers and probationers [SO 424(1)]; representing the District in the Conference (if agreed, as proposed, from now on), Connexion and wider world; and representing the Conference and wider Connexion in the District. They may also substitute for the Chair with delegated authority where appropriate. The Deputy (or a particular one of them if there is more than one, as determined by the District Policy Committee from time to time) should in addition be designated as the person to fill the role of the Chair (including as a member of the Conference, if this change

were to be agreed) should the Chair be incapacitated or unable for a time to exercise their office.

- 4.7** Three particular proposals arise (the first and second perhaps standing or falling together):
- 4.7.1** The connexional aspects of the role of the Chair that a Deputy or Deputies would thereby share or fulfil as a substitute mean that representatives of the wider Connexion should play some role in the appointment of Deputies, just as they are in the initial appointment of a Chair (but perhaps not to the same extent, involving for example two members of the connexional panel referred to in Standing Order 421A(3)).
- 4.7.2** Districts should be entitled to have a Deputy Chair substitute for their District Chair in the Conference, which would require a change to clause 14(2)(v) of the Deed of Union by special resolution. Such a change was not contemplated in the Reply accepted by the Conference of 2019 when a question to that effect was raised in Memorial M12; however, a precedent towards allowing the filling of a Conference seat by alternate or substitute named officers will be established if the 2024 Conference confirms the special resolution amending clause 14(2)(vii) of the Deed of Union (as recorded in the Minutes of the 2023 Conference at page 11) which would permit the filling of a seat by alternates: “the President or the Lay Leader of the Methodist Church in Ireland...”.
- 4.7.3** The appointment of someone as a Deputy should be shown against the name of the person concerned on the stations. If the Deputy role is only part-time and they are also appointed to other duties it can be shown against their name in the Circuit in which they are stationed as “... (... also Deputy Chair)”. If ever full time, it would be shown under the District Chair’s name at the start of a District’s list, provided that in the appointment there has indeed been connexional panel involvement as suggested above.
- 4.8** The Chair’s Assistant role would become more focused on contributing to the leadership of the District in other ways than the specifically presbyteral role described above. It might be open to both lay members in the District, or ordained, and if ordained, to either deacons or presbyters stationed in the District, but in either case being clearer that those ordained should be in the active work (ie in Full Connexion or Recognised and Regarded). Since the role would be focused on contributing to and sharing in leadership of the District:
- 4.8.1** Firstly, a title other than ‘Chair’s Assistant’, or even ‘Assistant Chair’, might be preferred and should be permitted. Indeed, if the role is filled by a lay person,

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there has been concern expressed in the OTTG that using 'Assistant' of a lay person reinforces a risk of actual or perceived hierarchy rather than the practice of collaborative leadership. (As an alternative term, 'District Secretary', with its analogies to Connexional Secretary or Diocesan Secretary, is gaining currency in the proposals for some merged Districts, a term that need not be confused with the role of Synod Secretary.) However, since no single term commands universal assent or meets every contextual requirement, flexibility in the use of terms should be permitted, but with the proviso that the Synod should determine which title should be used for the role in their context (as suggested in the Standing Order amendments below).

**4.8.2** Secondly, since the category is primarily envisaged as involving a contribution to District leadership, references to clerical and administrative duties should now be removed (given that Standing Order provisions are surely not required for this). If helpful in practice these or other forms of support can still be provided for the District Chair or other District Leaders as may be required (but again without requiring a Standing Order to permit them).

**4.9** In terms of distinguishing between the roles:

**4.9.1** If the Deputy role can be defined as in paragraph 4.6 above, it should be explicit that the role(s) of those who assist Chairs or contribute to District Leadership in this category do not include those duties. If that is made clear then the confusion of describing 'Deputies Chairs' as 'Assistant Chairs' might be ended. This will require adjustment in the use of terms in some contexts, where usage has perhaps sometimes developed as a pragmatic response to the methods of recruitment set out by the present Standing Order (which will also be addressed below), rather than through focusing on the essence of a deputy's role as envisaged in SO 426(1)-(4), and which it is proposed to be made clearer through the suggested amendments so as to ensure greater connexional commonality and clarity concerning the different categories.

**4.9.2** As for 'Chair's Assistants'/'Assistant Chairs'/'District Secretaries', in essence these lay or ordained roles will be focused on contributing to the leadership of the District in general or specified ways, other than through fulfilling the presbyteral functions referred to above. Such roles will, like Deputy Chairs but in other ways, constitute and enable helpful and valued contributions to the life and mission of both traditional sized and merged Districts.

**4.10** The development of larger Districts with more complex or creative features for fulfilling the responsibilities of a District in the contemporary environment has raised related questions about how both ministerial and lay roles might best

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be recruited or appointed, which also needs to be considered. The Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group has long noted that the Methodist Church has become increasingly aware that recruitment and appointment processes should be transparent and inclusive. Thus, whilst at present under SO 426(6)(ii) any public facing aspect undertaken by a Chair's Assistant must be approved by the District Policy Committee or Synod, in other respects, a Chair's Assistant can be appointed by the District Chair alone: the EDI risks of appointing by an individual, at worst simply through a 'tapping on the shoulder' method, should from now on be avoided; and the greater leadership aspect being emphasised through the development of the role to meet emerging circumstances also suggests that a public process should be embedded. For these reasons, but also out of concerns that there should be scope for recruiting suitable postholders to both Deputy Chair and Assistant Chair/District Secretary roles, the following suggestions are made to reinforce and develop the processes for recruitment and appointment going forwards.

- 4.11** Given the presbyteral and representative responsibilities for deputising for the District Chair, it is proposed that Deputy Chairs should be appointed connexionally on the nomination of the Synod.
- 4.11.1** Potentially this would mean that the District might advertise for applications or to invite nominations for suitable presbyters from both within or outside the District for full or part time roles. Such appointments should involve two members of the connexional panel involved in the nomination of District Chairs and, on the nomination of the Synod, mean that the appointee would be stationed to the role by the Conference, either by separate resolution of the Conference (as for District Chairs) or more simply through the adoption of the stations with the deputy being listed as such in the stations for that District.
- 4.11.2** Given the present Stationing Review and the need for any proposals to align with the outcome of that, it is not proposed to bring these proposals until 2025. However, in principle it is suggested that advertisement of a Deputy Chair role, whether full or part time, should not require the approval of the Stationing Committee (nor require the presbyter to seek the approval of the Stationing Advisory Committee ['SAC'], since this is an appointment within the control of the Church).
- 4.11.3** However, if a part time role is involved and appointment to a circuit role is also desired in connection with the appointment, which may require recruitment from outside the District, or a circuit appointment within the District that is half time or more, then, regarding the circuit aspect, the applicable stationing matching provisions and processes should still be applied. This would require the timetable

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of the circuit and District appointment processes to be correlated between the District and the Circuit to enable stationing to both aspects to take place at the same time, and to be subject to both a satisfactory circuit match and satisfactory appointment to the deputy chair role, to be approved by the Conference through the adoption of the stations.

- 4.12** Regarding any other type of leadership role under SO 426 (such as that of an Assistant Chair or District Secretary):
- 4.12.1** If this is to be advertised for appropriate fulfilment by a lay person, a successful recruitment process involving advert, agreed role description, application and interview should lead to appointment by the District Policy Committee ('DPC') as the District Trustees and employing body, and not be dependent on or wait for confirmation by the Synod, provided that the role has previously been agreed to in principle by the Synod through the approval of a role description specifying the duties that will be involved.
- 4.12.2** If the role is also open to a minister in the active work, following existing principles, the District will not need permission from the Stationing Committee to advertise nor the minister to seek permission from SAC (although references from the minister's minister in oversight should as standard be required, and from the Warden of the Diaconal Order in the case of a deacon). For parity (and reflecting the possibility in the present Standing Order), appointment should be by the DPC, again providing the role has previously been agreed in principle by the Synod, although in a minister's case also being subject to the Conference's confirmation of the stations.
- 4.12.3** If ever the role were appropriately to be suitable only for an ordained minister, the minister will need to be in the active work, and appointment should again be by the DPC, but to a role previously agreed in principle by the Synod. Additionally:
- i. if the role is part time and involves release of a minister stationed within a circuit, it could be dealt with as an internal matter between the District and Circuit (but in the case of a deacon will require the agreement also of the Warden of the Diaconal Order).
  - ii. if part time but requiring a 'new' minister who will also be expected to fulfil a circuit role, recruitment should be through the standard stationing matching process.
  - iii. if a full time role and it is desired to advertise and seek applications for the post, the permission of the Stationing Committee will be required.

- 4.13** In terms of the length of the appointment of Deputy Chairs or Chair's Assistants, at present SO 426(2)(iii) provides for repeatable three-year terms for Deputies, and there is no provision in 426(5)-(6) regarding Chair's Assistants. The present Stationing Review is understood to continue the move adopted in the recent Changing Patterns of Ministry Report towards establishing more flexible appointment periods. Part time district leadership appointments might also be coupled with circuit appointments, themselves of different length. Lay appointments usually need to be open ended, or at least to reflect available funding, and are subject to general provisions regarding redundancy and dismissal. Thus, seeking to legislate comprehensively for appointment lengths might be difficult or unwise, even if desired, although there would be merit in allowing for greater flexibility for appointment periods of deputies. Therefore, an initial maximum length of a ministerial appointment as Deputy Chair, or as an Assistant Chair/District Secretary, is suggested as being five years, to correspond with the standard initial circuit appointment, as included in the indicative Standing Order amendments (and thereafter the principles of a circuit reinvitation process have been referred to where connected circuit appointments are also involved). There might be other views as to what might be helpful.
- 4.14** Since there are various considerations and related reports or processes that make it difficult to bring final proposals to the Conference of 2024, this section of the Report is intended to indicate some potential clarifications regarding the roles and recruitment of Deputy Chairs and others who may also be appointed under Standing Order 426 to senior leadership in a District. Accordingly, the proposed amendments to SO 426 set out below are indicative at this stage, and the Conference is not being asked to adopt them this year. By sharing them in this way, it allows opportunity for reflection and comment upon them. However, one aspect proposed is that a Deputy Chair should be able from now on to substitute for a District Chair as a member of the Conference in limited circumstances where appropriate. Given that this requires a change to the Deed of Union and therefore a two-year special resolution process, it is proposed to bring the first year's special resolution this year, so that if the Conference agrees both this and next year, that change could come into effect next year (rather than delaying a further year). Accordingly, the OTTG therefore proposes the following amendment to the Deed of Union:

Deed of Union clause 14(2)

(v) the Chair or Chairs of each home District, ***or, as prescribed by Standing Orders, a deputy for a Chair who is unable to attend;***

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- 4.15** The OTTG sets out the following indicative amendments to Standing Order 426 which, subject to comments received, including in relation to the Stationing Review, and further amendment, may be brought to the Conference of 2025 for approval.

### **426 Permanent Deputies, Temporary Deputies and Assistants. *Deputy Chairs and other senior District leaders***

(1) ***On the nomination of t***The Synod, ***the Conference*** may appoint a person ***presbyter or presbyters in the active work*** to the office of deputy to the Chair. ***A Deputy Chair shall share with the Chair in the leadership and presbyteral duties of the Chair, dealing with matters of Methodist order and discipline, stationing, the pastoral care of ministers and probationers, representing the Conference in the District and the District in the Conference.***

(2) Any appointment made under clause (1) above shall comply with the following requirements:

(i) the appointment shall be on terms that the deputy is to perform the ***particular*** duties specified ***in each case*** in a description of the deputy's role which has been approved by the Synod;

***(iA) The Secretary of the Conference and two members of the panel appointed annually by the Conference under Standing Order 421A(3) shall be consulted in making any nomination to the Synod concerning such an appointment.***

(ii) the person appointed shall be a presbyter in the active work who is stationed in the District ***the appointment may be full-time or part-time and in either case shall be advertised. Following satisfactory recruitment (and completion of any stationing matching process applying to a related circuit appointment), the appointment shall be brought to the Synod for nomination to the Conference for confirmation by designation on the list of the stations in the District;***

***[Suggested editorial note: The words in parenthesis relate to situations where a presbyter is being appointed as a part-time Deputy Chair and also being newly stationed to a part-time circuit appointment, when the applicable stationing matching processes will still need to be followed for the circuit appointment. Other situations may involve the partial release of a presbyter from their existing circuit appointment, where a new stationing matching process will not be required but where the District should still liaise sensitively with the Circuit. In all cases, the processes for both the District appointment and any related part-time new or reconfigured Circuit appointment should be coordinated, and***



***will culminate with the Conference's confirmation of the appointments through the adoption of the stations for the ensuing year.]***

(iii) the appointment shall be for a specified period not exceeding three years in the first instance (but capable of extension for a further period or periods each of which shall not exceed five years, ***provided that the requirements of (iA) above shall apply again to any extension that would take the cumulated periods of appointment beyond six years in total***), and upon terms that it shall terminate if the person ***presbyter*** appointed ceases to be qualified under ~~(ii) above~~ ***in the active work and stationed in the District***;

(iv) the duties to be performed by the deputy shall not include duties expressly required to be performed by the Chair by any provision of the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union or the Model Trusts:

(3) The Synod may appoint more than one person to hold office as a deputy at the same time, but each appointment shall comply with the requirements set out in clause (2):

~~(4) If the Chair of a District or a deputy appointed under the preceding clauses of this Standing Order is temporarily unable to fulfil all or any of the duties of the office because of accident, illness, absence from the country, sabbatical leave or other cause, ***the Deputy Chair duly appointed under this Standing Order shall substitute for and act as the Chair in all matters, including that of membership of the Conference. If more than one Deputy Chair has been appointed, one of them shall have been expressly designated in advance to substitute as a member of the Conference by the Synod or the district Policy Committee,*** or~~

***(4) In cases of emergency and in the absence of a deputy previously appointed under this Standing Order, the President or the Vice-President on his or her behalf, after consultation with the Synod or district Policy Committee and the Conference Office, may appoint a person, being a presbyter in the active work stationed in the District, with authority to fulfil such of those duties which the Chair or deputy is unable to perform as may be specified in the appointment. An appointment made by the President or Vice-President shall continue only until such time as the Synod or district Policy Committee is able to confirm their nomination of the appointment, or to appoint nominate another person under the provisions of this clause Standing Order, for appointment by the Conference by designation on the list of the stations in the District.***

(5) A Chair ***The district Policy Committee*** may at any time appoint a person to assist him or her in such way as he or she may think fit ***the Chair and contribute to the senior leadership of the District. The appointment shall not be to fulfil the duties set out in clause (1) above, but to fulfil such duties as are specified in each case in a description of the role approved by the Synod, with such title as shall be determined by the Synod.***

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***[Suggested editorial note: This replaces a previous provision for the appointment by a District Chair of an assistant (sometimes to a purely clerical or administrative role, since such support can be provided without requiring a Standing Order to that effect), with a provision enabling Districts to appoint others to share in the senior leadership of the District, including, if a minister, from within or beyond those already stationed in the District.]***

(6) Unless the assistance is purely clerical or administrative, ~~a~~Any appointment made under clause (5) above shall comply with the following requirements:

(i) the person appointed, ***if a minister***, shall reside ~~be in the active work stationed~~ in the District for the purposes of the stations, ***or, if a lay person***, shall be a member in the District, and the terms of appointment shall provide for it to terminate if this requirement ceases to be satisfied;

(ii) if the person appointed is to act publicly on behalf of the Chair, the appointment shall not take effect until it has been approved by the Synod or the district Policy Committee. ***the appointment may be full time or part time and shall be advertised if open to lay persons or to lay persons and ministers. If the appointment is appropriately open only to ministers, it may be advertised if any necessary permission has been given; otherwise, recruitment shall be through a stationing matching process. Following satisfactory recruitment (and, in the case of a minister, completion of any stationing matching process applying to a related circuit appointment), the district Policy Committee shall make the appointment, subject in the case of ministers to the Conference's confirmation of the appointment by designation on the list of the stations in the District;***

***[Suggested editorial note: Permission of the Stationing Committee is usually required to advertise ministerial appointments, unless also open to lay persons. If the appointment is part time and involves a minister who is also being newly stationed to a part-time circuit appointment, the applicable stationing matching processes will still need to be followed for the circuit appointment. Other situations may involve the partial release of a minister from an existing circuit appointment where a new matching process will not be required but where the District should still liaise sensitively with the Circuit, and, in the case of a Deacon, additionally with the Warden of the Diaconal Order. In all cases, the processes for both the District appointment and any related new part-time or reconfigured Circuit appointment should be coordinated, and will culminate with the Conference's confirmation of the appointments through the adoption of the stations for the ensuing year.]***

(iii) the duties to be performed by the person appointed shall not include duties expressly required to be performed by the Chair by any provision of the Methodist Church Act 1976, the Deed of Union or the Model Trusts ***if the appointment shall be of a minister, the appointment shall be for a specified period not exceeding five years in the first instance***

***(but capable of extension for a further period or periods following a reinvitation process that shall reflect the principles involved in a circuit reinvitation process), and upon terms that it shall terminate if the minister ceases to be in the active work and stationed in the District.***

(7) Nothing in this Standing Order infringes upon the provisions in the Deed of Union for filling casual vacancies.

See cl. 42(c) of the Deed (Book II, Part 1).

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**50/10. The Conference receives Section 4 of the Report.**

**50/11. [Special Resolution]**

**The Conference amends clause 14(2) of the Deed of Union as follows:**

**(v) the Chair or Chairs of each home District, *or, as prescribed by Standing Orders, a deputy for a Chair who is unable to attend;***

### **5. Connexional Leaders' Forum**

**5.1** The 2023 Conference adopted a proposal that 'current members of the CLF be invited to a day of reflection in the 2023-24 connexional year to explore further models of enabling those with significant responsibility in the Connexion to confer and discern (without needing to make decisions) on matters relating to the calling of the Church in the present age.'

**5.2** The Day of Reflection was held in person at King's Park, Northampton, overnight, 4 to 5 March, and was facilitated by the Secretary of the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland, the Revd Dr Heather Morris. Those invited were (and in attendance except where noted):

The President and Vice-President

The President and Vice-President designate

The Youth President

The Chair of the Council

The Chairs of the Mission (the deputy chair was there in the place of the chair who was on sabbatical) and Ministries Committee and the incoming Chair of the Resourcing Committee.

The District Chairs and designated/nominated Chairs from September 2024 (three chairs and one designate were not able to attend).

The Senior Managers of the Connexional Team (seven of whom attended)

The Senior Methodist Tutor at the Queen's Foundation and the Principal of Cliff College

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The Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee  
The Chair of the Stationing Committee and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice (both of whom sent apologies).

**5.3** The meeting addressed a number of perceived underlying issues, including:

- The levels of trust that are necessary for meetings of connexional leaders to be effective;
- The question of representation and whether there is a tension between representation and effective conversation;
- Some models of conferring used elsewhere that might be employed by connexional leaders.
- The role of the Conference as a discerning body;
- The idea that connexional leadership is shared between District Chairs, the Senior Managers in the Team, members of the Connexional Council, and others;
- The recognition of power.

**5.4** Different configurations of connexional leaders were explored, including:

- The District Chairs (or a representative number of Chairs) and the Warden of the Order;
- The Presidency (and past Presidents and Vice Presidents);
- The Senior Management Group of the Connexional Team (or just the Conference Secretariat);
- The Chair of the Council and its three main committees (plus the Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee);
- The Connexional Council (or members of it);
- Combinations of some of the above.

The meeting noted its concern that the worthy objective of enabling reflection would also, particularly for members of the Connexional Council, become another demand on precious time.

**5.5** Unsurprisingly, the gathering was unable in 24 hours to reach a common mind. It agreed that this is a period of transition and that it might become clearer what is needed as the Connexional Council and associated bodies are bedded in. It therefore agreed to recommend that for 2024-25, SO 230 should remain suspended and that there be two meetings:

1. A gathering of Chairs, the Warden and Senior Managers at the end of the Conference to consider the implication and implementation of the Conference's decisions, and

2. A retreat-type gathering of the Chairs and Connexional Council for reflection on the work of God.
- 5.6** The gathering was hugely grateful to Dr Morris for her careful and skillful facilitation and recognised the value of external leadership in whatever future structures are created.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**50/12. The Conference receives Section 5 of the Report.**

**50/13. The Conference suspends Standing Order 212 [as renumbered from SO 230 if resolution 50/5 above is adopted] with effect from the close of the Conference of 2024 until the close of the Conference of 2025.**

**6. Continuation of the OTTG**

- 6.1** As noted above (paragraphs 1.9 and 1.10) the OTTG believes that there is still work to be done to bring to completion all that the Conference has asked in this area. It also believes that continuity has been helpful in making the progress that has been made over the last twelve months and therefore recommends that the membership of the OTTG for 2024-25 remains as:  
Mrs Anne Bolton, the Revd Dr David Chapman, Mrs Susan Howdle, the Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Dr Daleep S Mukarji, the Revd Leslie M Newton, Mr David Pickles, the Revd Mark Rowland, Ms Sandie Smith, Mr Doug Godfrey-Swanney, the Revd Dr James N Tebbutt.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTIONS

**50/14. The Conference receives Section 6 of the Report.**

**50/15. The Conference reappoints the members of the Oversight and Trusteeship Task Group as set out in paragraph 6.1 to serve for a final year until the Conference of 2025 to complete the work noted in this Report as still requiring to be done.**

*A resolution to appoint the panel required by the new SO 291 will be brought on the Order Paper.*

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### APPENDIX A

#### **PART 2 Bodies appointed by or relating directly to the Conference**

*[This Part contains the Standing Orders relating to:  
connexional bodies including the Connexional Council and panels appointed by the Conference;  
connexional bodies reporting to the Conference;  
entities which have a significant relationship with the Conference or Methodist Church as a whole;  
Conference properties as defined in the Model Trusts.]*

#### **Section 20 The Connexional Council**

##### **200 Connexional Council: constitution**

*[In this Standing Order 200, items in bold italics or strike-through indicate proposed changes to the text originally adopted by the Conference of 2023 for implementation from 1 September 2024.]*

(1) (a) The Connexional Council constituted by clause 37A of the Deed of Union shall be appointed annually by the Conference and shall comprise at least 18 and no more than 22 members.

(b) In accordance with clause (1)(a) the membership of the council shall consist of:

- (i) the President and Vice-President of the Conference as required by clause 37A;
- (ii) the Secretary of the Conference as similarly required;
- (iii) the chair of the council appointed in accordance with clause (2)(a) below;
- (iv) the chair or ~~a~~ deputy chair of the Mission Committee;
- (v) the chair or ~~a~~ deputy chair of the Ministries Committee;
- (vi) the chair or ~~a~~ deputy chair of the Resourcing Committee;
- (vii) the chair or a deputy chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee;**
- (viii) up to *fourteen* other persons appointed in accordance with clause (2)(b) below.**

***The meeting shall be quorate when twelve members are present.***

(c) The members of the council shall all be members of the Methodist Church.

(d) In addition, the Assistant Secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Secretary and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice shall attend and have the right to speak but not vote. From time to time, in order to assist the council in dealing

effectively with its business, other persons whose attendance is appropriate may also be invited to be present and speak but not to vote.

***(e) A single named person shall be nominated annually by the relevant committee for appointment under each of heads (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of sub-clause (1)(b) above. There shall be no provision for voting substitutes. In the temporary absence of the appointee the alternative eligible officer in each case may where appropriate be invited to be present and speak but not to vote.***

(2) (a) The chair of the council shall be appointed upon nomination by the Nominations Committee normally to serve, subject to the final sentence of this **provisions of clause (4)**, for a period of four years and may be appointed for a further period of up to two years. The Nominations Committee shall also nominate for appointment by the Conference, from the members appointed under head (1)(viii) above, a deputy chair, who may hold office during the period of appointment under sub-clause (b) below. The provisions of Standing Order 316 shall apply to any curtailment of these appointments:

(b) The persons appointed under head (1)(viii) above shall be nominated by the Nominations Committee for their experience, expertise and representative roles, each person having the appropriate skills to serve on a trustee body. They shall normally serve, **subject to the provisions of clause (4)**, for a period of four years and may be appointed for a further period of up to two years.

(3) The Secretary of the Conference shall be the secretary of the council and shall be responsible for preparing the agendas of the meeting, for the publication and implementation of its decisions, and for ensuring that it reports annually to the Conference and submits such other reports as are necessary to comply with legal requirements.

***(4) (a) A person shall cease to be a member of the council where any of the following conditions are satisfied:***

***(i) the person ceases to be a member of the Methodist Church***

***(ii) if appointed to the council under head (iii) or (viii) of sub-clause (1)(b) above, the person resigns from the council;***

***(iii) if appointed to the council under head (i), (ii), (iv), (v), (vi) or (vii), the person ceases to hold the relevant office;***

***(iv) if (A) in the written opinion given to the council of a registered medical practitioner treating a person appointed to the council under clause (1)(vii) above that person has***

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***become mentally or physically incapable of acting as a trustee and may continue to be so for more than three months; or***

***(B) a person so appointed is absent from the meetings of the council for six months without the consent of the council and in either case the council has resolved that the relevant person shall cease to be a member of the council;***

***(iv) in the case of the chair or deputy chair of the council, the appointment has been terminated under the provisions of sub-clause (b) below.***

***(b) The appointment of the chair or deputy chair of the council may be terminated before the expiration of the period provided for by sub-clause (2)(a) above if the following conditions are satisfied:***

***(A) at least 25 persons who were members of the previous Conference and who include 10 persons falling within the group of persons specified in paragraph (c) below request the Secretary of the Conference to appoint a Termination Panel in accordance with paragraph (d) below to consider the termination of the appointment of the chair or the deputy chair on the ground specified in paragraph (e) below; and***

***(B) the Termination Panel decides that the relevant appointment should be terminated.***

***(c) The persons specified for the purposes of paragraph (b)(A) above are the following: the President, the Vice-President, the ex-President, the ex-Vice President, the President-designate, the Vice-President designate, the Secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Secretary, the District Chairs and the members of the council appointed under heads (iv) to (viii) of clause (1)(b).***

***(d) A Termination Panel shall consist of seven persons who were members of the Conference in at least one of the previous five years, of whom at least one shall be a deacon and at least three shall be lay people and shall include a past President or Vice-President who shall chair the panel.***

***(e) The ground on which the appointment of a Termination Panel may be requested is that the chair or the deputy chair (as the case may be) no longer commands the confidence of the council or (alternatively or additionally) of the Methodist Church in the exercise of the functions of chair or deputy chair of the council.***

***(f) A request for the appointment of a Termination Panel shall be made in writing, shall be signed by the persons by whom the request is made and shall state the reasons which are alleged to give rise to the loss of confidence forming the ground for such a request.***



*[Note: there are other situations where by virtue of general trust law a person becomes disqualified from being a trustee and therefore the appointment automatically comes to an end; these instances do not need to be provided for expressly here, but it is anticipated that an editorial note could offer guidance.]*

***(5) (a) Where a person ceases to be a member of the council under clause (4)(a), the council shall have authority to appoint to its membership with immediate effect until the end of the next Conference an eligible replacement for the relevant person but shall not be obliged to do so unless it is necessary to restore the membership of the council to 18.***

***(b) If the chair ceases to be a member of the council under clause 4(a) or the appointment of the chair is terminated under clause (4)(b) the deputy chair shall act as chair until the end of the next Conference. In that event, or if the deputy chair ceases to be a member of the council under clause (4)(a) or the appointment of the deputy chair is so terminated, the remaining members of the Council may, but need not, appoint a person from among their number to act as deputy chair until that time. If the appointments of both the chair and the deputy chair are terminated under clause 4(b) the remaining members of the council shall appoint persons from among their number to act as chair and deputy chair until that time.***

***(c) Any appointments made under this provision shall be reported by the council to the Conference.***

(6) The council shall normally meet at least six times a year, at appropriate times to enable the full participation of all those appointed to serve. Some, but not all, of these meetings may be held electronically or in hybrid form. Where urgent business requires it, the council shall have the power to make decisions electronically (by email or similar communication) between meetings.

(7) Except where a Standing Order requires otherwise, any resolution of the council is adopted if approved by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tied vote, the person chairing the meeting shall have a second, casting vote.

***(8) The council shall agree and publish a working document setting out the rules it has adopted from time to time relating to matters designed to regulate appropriately its conduct of its business.***

### **201 Authority to appoint committees and other groups**

In addition to such committees as are prescribed by Standing Orders, the Connexional Council shall have power, for the purposes of fulfilling its responsibilities under the Deed of Union, Model Trusts and Standing Orders, to appoint committees, working parties or

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other such groups as necessary, in each case determining their powers and functions and clarifying where relevant the extent of any delegation.

### **202 Chair's executive authority**

(1) The chair, or the deputy chair, of the Connexional Council may take executive action on behalf of the council where the power to do so has been specifically delegated by the Council.

(2) In urgent matters requiring response that occur between meetings of the council and when members of the council cannot be quickly consulted, the chair, or in the chair's absence the deputy chair, may act in the name of the council and shall as soon as practicable report such actions to the council. They shall in all cases work within any guidelines for speaking and acting on behalf of the Methodist Church approved by the Conference.

### **203 General powers and responsibilities as trustee body**

(1) In the exercise of its exclusive responsibility for the general control and management of the connexional administration of the Methodist Church, as defined by clause 37B of the Deed of Union, and without prejudice to the generality of this responsibility as a trustee body, the Connexional Council shall have the powers and exercise the functions laid down in the following clauses of this Standing Order.

(2) The council shall have the direction and management of the members of the Connexional Team (as defined in Section 38 of Standing Orders) and be the employing body for those persons appointed to the Team under Standing Orders 380(3)(iii) and 384.

(3) It shall exercise oversight of the general work of the Connexional Team, including that of the Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary, in providing an effective and efficient service on behalf of the Conference.

(4) It shall exercise oversight of the committees which have been appointed by the council under Section 30 or otherwise to undertake the various areas of work for which the council is responsible.

(5) With regard to any connexional bodies, the council shall be responsible for

- (i) all matters relating to or arising out of the employment of persons by such bodies; and
- (ii) compliance with legal requirements as to the conduct of such bodies, including but not limited to those listed in clause 37C(b)(iii) of the Deed of Union.

(6) (a) Without derogating from such responsibilities laid by Standing Orders upon other bodies, the council shall be responsible for recommending to the Conference the adoption of Standing Orders or guidance, as appropriate, affecting Districts, Circuits and Local Churches, in relation to matters of employment or compliance with other applicable legal requirements

(b) If at any time legislation is enacted or judgment is delivered by a court of law in any territory within the Home Districts in consequence of which any Standing Orders or subsisting resolutions of the Conference are illegal, or no longer achieve their intended purpose, or fail to give effect to legal requirements, the council may, so far only as it judges necessary to meet any such defects within that territory before the next meeting of the Conference, revoke, amend, add to or suspend any such Standing Orders or resolutions or take other actions which would, but for this sub-clause, be contrary to their effect.

(c) The council shall not delegate any powers exercisable only by virtue of sub-clause (b) above.

(d) If the council takes any action authorised only by sub-clause (b) above it shall be reported to the next Conference and shall cease to have effect at the close of that Conference unless meanwhile ratified by it.

(7) The council shall be the managing trustees of such property as is assigned to be its responsibility under the Model Trusts.

(8) The council shall be the trustee body for all connexional funds and have responsibility for the preparation and approval of the consolidated accounts.

### **204 Responsibilities for finance and property**

(1) The Connexional Council shall be responsible for:

- (i) presenting to the Conference the financial statements, for information; and
- (ii) presenting to the Conference the budget for expenditure upon the central services for which the council is responsible, for approval by the Conference.

(2) In order to assist the council in the exercise of its trustee functions, it shall receive and consider such advice and reports from the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee as are required in Standing Order 222 and shall ensure that the Conference is informed about any significant concerns raised by the committee.

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(3) The council has responsibility throughout the home Districts, subject to the authority of the Conference as the governing body of the Methodist Church as set out in clause 18 of the Deed of Union, for all model trust property affairs and the building, legal and financial aspects of shared schemes under the Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969, and for that purpose is empowered to draw up its own regulations, subject to the approval of the Conference.

(4) For the purposes of the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Model Trusts the council is the connexional organisation authorised by the Conference to act generally on behalf of the Conference in relation to property affairs and constituted to discharge the responsibilities of the Property Division.

(5) The council shall be responsible for the administration of a central scheme of Gift Aid recovery for the benefit of local church, circuit and other Methodist funds to which the Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 applies.

### **205 The Conference's Vision and Strategy**

(1) To enable the Church to fulfil its calling, the council shall seek to implement the vision, strategies, decisions and directions set by the Conference.

(2) In partnership with others in giving spiritual leadership in the Church, the Connexional Council shall keep in constant review the life of the Church, so as to assist in making its work and witness more effective. It shall receive and consider any representations which the Chairs' Meeting may from time to time submit upon matters of connexional or district concern.

(3) In fulfilment of these responsibilities, the council shall help to ensure that the Conference's decisions and objectives are implemented in a timely, cohesive and considered manner, and shall bring such proposals and reports to the Conference as will assist the Conference to determine the future policy and objectives of the Conference.

### **206 Powers to act on behalf of the Conference**

(1) Between the close of any Conference and the opening of the next succeeding Conference the Connexional Council is authorised to act on behalf of the Conference, provided that with the exception expressed in Standing Order 203(6)(b) *such* action is not contrary to the Deed of Union or Standing Orders or to any subsisting resolution of the Conference.

(2) The Conference may, by Standing Order or otherwise, delegate to the council such duties and powers (not being those which in any case are exclusively the council's responsibility as the trustee body) as it deems appropriate.

### 207 Reports

(1) The Connexional Council shall annually report to the Conference on the discharge of its responsibilities.

(2) The council shall report, in accordance with their respective requirements, to all relevant regulatory bodies (including, but not limited to, the Charity Commission).

### Section 21 The Conference's Committees on Faith and Order and on Methodist Law and Polity

**210 [330] Faith and Order Committee** (1) The Conference shall appoint annually a Faith and Order Committee consisting of:

- (i) a senior member of the Connexional Team, representing the Secretary of the Conference;
- (ii) the secretary of the committee, who shall be appointed in accordance with Standing Order 385 or 386;
- (iii) up to twenty other members.

(2) The secretary of the committee shall be a member of the Connexional Team.

(3) The committee shall appoint a Liturgy and Worship Sub-Committee, chaired and convened by members of the committee but including persons who are not members of the committee in order to assist the committee in the completion of its tasks.

(4) The committee shall encourage reflection on the theological implications of all the work undertaken by the Connexional Team, shall seek to stimulate theological reflection and study throughout the Church, and shall disseminate the results of its work as widely and accessibly as possible.

(5) The committee shall consider and report upon all matters remitted to it by the Conference touching the faith or order of the Church, and bring to the notice of the Conference any matter of faith or order to which it should give attention.

(6) The committee shall in particular consider and report upon all matters so remitted which arise in connection with proposals and projects for inter-communion or organic union between the Methodist Church and other Christian churches at home or overseas.

(7) When the Church is involved with another denomination in a local or area scheme for uniting congregations or groups of congregations or for sharing a building or personnel the faith and order aspects of the scheme shall be scrutinised by the committee.

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(8) The committee shall consider and report upon all matters touching faith or order which concern the relations of the Conference with other Methodist and ecumenical bodies to which the Methodist Church relates.

(9) The committee is empowered to deal with any communication that may be received during any connexional year on the above-named and kindred subjects and to report to the succeeding Conference what, if any, action it has taken with reference thereto.

(10) The committee is authorised to make proposals to the Conference for the revision from time to time of the forms of service authorised by the Conference for use in the Methodist Church, and forms of worship intended for regular and general use in Methodist public worship shall be submitted to the Conference for approval after a period of experimentation on the recommendation of the committee.

(11) ***The committee shall be consulted on*** all matters directly concerning the faith or order of the Church ***that are to be*** presented to the Conference by other bodies, ***including the Connexional Council, or presented to the council for decision under the council's own powers, and shall in due course formally scrutinise the relevant reports.***

(12) The committee shall report annually to the ~~Conference~~ **Methodist Council** and, whenever its business requires, to the ~~Conference~~ **Connexional Council**.

**211 [338] Law and Polity Committee** (1) The ~~Methodist Council~~ **Conference** shall annually appoint a Committee on Methodist Law and Polity. The Secretary of the Conference shall be ex officio a member of the committee ***and the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice shall be its convener.***

(2) The committee shall, as may be necessary, consider questions which concern the laws of the Connexion, together with other matters relating to Methodist legislation and administration which may require special attention.

(3) The committee shall advise the Conference ***and, where requested to do so and where no conflict with the committee's duties to the Conference arises, the Connexional Council*** as to the interpretation and application of its ***the Conference's*** laws and Standing Orders and, in case of necessity, suggest any alteration or modification or put forward other proposals for legislation.

(4) The committee is entrusted with the duty of examining and correlating the various elements of the constitution of the Church.

(5) The committee is charged in particular with the scrutiny of all new legislative and administrative proposals as to their coherence with existing usage and with other proposals which may at the same time be under consideration. ***The committee shall be consulted upon all matters directly concerning the law and polity of the Church that are to be presented to the Conference by other bodies, including the Connexional Council, or to the council for decision under the council's own powers.***

(6) With a view to the discharge of the committee's responsibilities during the periods of the Conference the committee shall annually appoint a Conference Sub-committee, which shall consist of the committee's secretary and other members of the next Conference, who need not be members of the committee.

***(7) The committee shall report annually to the Conference and, whenever its business requires, to the Connexional Council.***

### **Section 22 Nominations, Scrutiny and Risk Assurance**

#### **220 Nominations Committee**

*[This text, apart from the insertion in (2), is as approved by the Conference of 2023.]*

(1) The Conference shall appoint annually a Nominations Committee with the responsibility and functions set out in this Standing Order, and such other functions as from time to time the Conference shall specify.

(2) The committee shall consist of a chair and up to six other members, ***none of whom shall be members of the Connexional Council.*** The members shall (subject to the need to ensure appropriate continuity and turnover) normally be appointed to serve for a maximum period of four years. The Secretary of the Conference shall act as its convener.

(3) It shall be the responsibility of the committee, acting in accordance with such terms of reference as are approved by the Conference from time to time, to ensure that the nominations which are made to the Conference or, as the case may be, the Connexional Council for appointment to the bodies referred to below are brought as a result of processes which conform to the requirements for the body concerned (as defined in Standing Orders, its terms of reference or elsewhere) and are in accordance with the church's principles for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity as laid down in Standing Order 330(1).

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(4) The bodies referred to in clause (3) are:

- the Connexional Council
- the Ministries Committee
- the Mission Committee
- the Resourcing Committee
- the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

together with any other bodies for whose nominations the Conference may from time to time require the committee to take responsibility.

(5) In fulfilling its responsibilities, and acting in accordance with current best practice for recruitment to such appointments, the committee shall:

- (i) monitor and offer appropriate advice and recommendations to those responsible for the processes of approval of role descriptions for relevant appointments and of recruitment to those appointments;
- (ii) bring to the Conference or council, as required, the resulting nominations for appointment;
- (iii) work with the chairs of the bodies concerned on a periodic review of those appointed to such bodies in order to ensure that the body continues to function appropriately;
- (iv) advise the council on matters concerned with training and self-evaluation of all those appointed to such bodies.

(6) The committee shall report annually to the Conference on its work.

***(7) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of Standing Order 016 do not apply to nominations brought to the Conference or any other body by the committee.***

### **221 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

(1) The Conference shall appoint a scrutiny group (“the JDS scrutiny group”) to provide strategic scrutiny of the implementation and embedding of the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity strategy and reports to the Conference, and assurance that the work for which the Connexional Council is responsible to the Conference is executed in accordance with the principles of that strategy.

(2) The group shall comprise three persons with relevant experience, knowledge and skills relating to the implementation of complex issues and understanding of the workings of the Methodist Church, who shall be nominated annually to the Conference by the Nominations Committee.



(3) The group shall operate under terms of reference agreed from time to time by the council.

(4) The group shall report annually to the Conference.

### 222 [213A] Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

(1) The Conference shall each year appoint, upon the nomination of the ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council, a connexional Audit and Risk Assurance Committee, having the constitution and responsibilities specified below, in order to assist the council in its functions under Standing Order 203 and 204.

(2) The committee shall consist of no fewer than three persons, including one appointed by the Conference to chair the committee, all of whom shall be members of the Methodist Church and all of whom shall normally serve for an initial term of four years and thereafter on an annual basis for a maximum of three years. No person shall be eligible to be a member of the committee who is a member of the Connexional Team, or the Strategy and Resources Committee, or the council.

(3) Any nomination for appointment which will result in a committee member serving for a continuous term exceeding seven years may only be made in exceptional circumstances and shall require a resolution of the council carried by a majority of 75% of those present and voting.

(4) The committee shall meet as frequently as need be, but in any event at least three times a year and also whenever the auditors appointed under Standing Order 012 require it to do so.

(5) When required to do so by the committee, ~~the connexional Treasurer and~~ any appropriate members of the Connexional Team shall also be in attendance at meetings.

(6) The responsibilities of the committee shall be:

- (i) to advise the council upon the appointment in accordance with Standing Order 012 of auditors for all the funds for which it is responsible, and (subject to that Standing Order) upon the nature and scope of the audit required;
- (ii) to review the **consolidated accounts** ~~unified statement of connexional finances~~ required by Standing Order 203(8);
- (iii) to review, in direct consultation with the auditors, their annual report;
- (iv) to review and monitor the appropriateness and effectiveness of the financial and other internal control systems with regard to moneys and other assets for which the council is responsible;

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- (v) to review and monitor the appropriateness and effectiveness of risk management processes and assurance reporting arrangements;
- (vi) to submit an annual report to the council.

(7) In carrying out its functions the committee shall have reference to the terms of reference for the committee provided by the council from time to time.

### Section 23 Safeguarding

*[This text is essentially the current text, with only the necessary amendments e.g. as to appointment by the Conference, references to the Methodist Council, gender neutral language and re-numbering. It is anticipated that proposals for further substantive changes will be brought in future years.]*

**230 [232] Safeguarding Committee.** (1) The Methodist Council ~~Conference~~ shall annually appoint a Safeguarding Committee consisting of:

- (i) a chair who shall be appointed for four years;
- (ii) up to 18 people who shall be appointed for six years who shall include:
  - (a) at least five persons who, by virtue of their relevant experience, will in the judgment of the council ~~council~~ **Conference** command wide respect.
  - (b) at least ten other persons with relevant experience.

(2) The safeguarding officer and such other persons as deemed appropriate by the committee shall be able to attend as advisers and shall not be voting members.

(3) For the purposes of this Standing Order:

- (i) a 'blemished disclosure' is a disclosure document, received from any body with official responsibility for providing information about the criminal records of individuals, which contains convictions, cautions or any other adverse entry;
- (ii) 'the safeguarding officer' means the person or one of the persons in the Connexional Team responsible for issues relating to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- (iii) a 'relevant party' means any person who is the subject of a decision, determination or recommendation made by the committee in the exercise of its functions under clause (4) below or in relation to whom a risk assessment has been carried out for purposes connected with the exercise of those functions, and references to "the Superintendent" and "the District Chair" or "the District Safeguarding Officer" in relation to a relevant party are references

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to the Superintendent of the Circuit in which the relevant party is stationed or is a member and to the Chair or safeguarding officer of the District of which that Circuit forms part.

(4) The functions of the Safeguarding Committee shall be:

- (i) to give directions to and offer guidance on the steps to be taken by the relevant appointing body in respect of any blemished disclosure or any related matter or application following referral of that disclosure, matter or application under Standing Order 234 and a risk assessment under Standing Order 235;
- (ii) without prejudice to the provisions of Standing Orders 234 and 235, to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Conference as to the action to be taken in respect of any minister, local preacher or member of the Church who, pursuant to the Church's policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, signs a form in which ~~he or she declares~~ a conviction or caution in respect of an offence of the kind specified in sub-clause (i) or (ii) of Standing Order 010(2) **is declared**;
- (iii) to determine whether to authorise the making of an appointment or entry into a contract following a reference under the provisions of Standing Order 010(5);
- (iv) to act upon any referral to it by the safeguarding officer, following referral to that officer made under any of Standing Orders 713(7A), 725(6), 761(15) or 1102(9) or otherwise made as a result of the operation of any of the processes of the Church as determined by Standing Orders by carrying out such investigations and making such recommendations to the referring person or body as it thinks fit;
- (v) without prejudice to the provisions of Standing Orders 234 and 235, to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Conference, upon a reference by the safeguarding officer, as to the action to be taken in respect of any minister, local preacher or member of the Church who has been the subject of a complaints and discipline process (whether under Part 11 of these Standing Orders or a previous form of process) and in respect of whom a safeguarding risk remains or where new information requires a reassessment of the risk;
- (vi) without prejudice to paragraph (v) above, to recommend to the Secretary of the Conference that a direction under Standing Order 013C be given to any minister, local preacher or member of the Church and to review any such recommendation. Any such recommendation shall be in writing and may be made only on the ground that there is a safeguarding risk in respect of that person, and the reasons for which the committee believes that ground to exist shall be set out as part of the recommendation;
- (vii) to recommend that a contract should be entered into for the purposes of Standing Order 690(2)(c) and make recommendations as to the terms of such a contract;

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- (viii) to make recommendations as to the terms of, or the continuance of, an existing contract under Standing Order 690(2)(c) following a review undertaken in accordance with Standing Order 690A;
- (ix) to approve annually a list of assessors who may be instructed to conduct a connexional risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 235(5);
- (x) to be available for consultation by those members of the Connexional Team whose responsibilities include the Church's policy for safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- (xi) to promote effective safeguarding practice and safe recruitment across the connexion;
- (xii) in response to developments in safeguarding practice and to concerns raised by the committee in fulfilling its functions, **to report and** make recommendations to the ~~Methodist Council~~ **Conference and, as required, to the Connexional Council to enable the council to fulfil its trustee responsibilities;**
- (xiii) to ensure the sharing of information and close working relationships with statutory authorities and other denominations;
- (xiv) to carry out such other functions as the Conference by Standing Order or otherwise may direct or request.

(5) The chair of the committee shall nominate such members of the committee (~~including him or herself~~ but not being fewer than three in number **and which may include the said chair**) as **the chair** thinks fit to be the panel to make any determination or recommendation in discharge of the committee's functions set out in sub-clauses (ii) to (ix) of clause (4) above. For the purpose of giving directions or guidance under clause (4)(i) above, the safeguarding officer shall convene a panel of not fewer than three members of the committee having regard to the expertise required in the particular case.

(6) (a) When discharging the functions specified under clause (4)(i) and (ii) to (ix) above, the panel nominated shall contain one person referred to in clause (1)(ii)(a) and two persons referred to in clause (1)(ii)(b).

(b) Requests for consultation by members of the Connexional Team under clause (4)(x) above shall be made to the chair in the first instance.

(7) (a) For the purpose of carrying out its functions under clause (4)(i) to (ix), a nominated panel (the members of which shall as far as possible act together) may make such inquiries, meet such persons and obtain such expert advice in each individual case as the panel thinks fit.

(b) The panel shall consider any risk assessment prepared in accordance with Standing Order 235 in connection with the exercise in the particular case of one of its functions

under clause (2)(i) to (iv). Copies of any such risk assessment or a summary of the assessment shall be provided to other persons or bodies in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 235.

(c) A panel may choose to hold any meeting by telephone if so agreed by all members of the panel.

(8) A panel appointed in accordance with clause (7)(a) above shall send a written notice to the relevant party, informing ~~him or her~~ **that person** of the direction, recommendation or determination given or made by the panel. A copy of the notice shall be sent to the District Chair, the District Safeguarding Officer and the Superintendent and also to the relevant party's line manager where the relevant party is an employee of a church court and to any group appointed under Standing Order 690(2)(a).

(9) The committee shall report to the next ensuing Conference each determination or recommendation made under clause (4)(ii) to (ix) above. Any such report shall be made to the Representative Session in closed session and shall be confined to the number of appeals under each category of case, the number of persons concerned who were lay and the number who were ordained, the number of appeals allowed and dismissed, the number of authorisations given and refused and the number of recommendations made and their nature in each case.

(10) In addition to any report under clause (9) above, the chair shall make a general report to the Conference in its Representative Session at least once every three years. This report shall deal with any questions of principle raised in the matters dealt with, but without reference to any personal details, and it shall be open to the Conference to debate those questions.

**231 [233] Grounds of Appeal.** (1) A relevant party, that party's District Chair or Superintendent or the safeguarding officer may appeal against a direction or determination under Standing Order 230(4)(i) or (iii) and the effect of the direction or determination shall be suspended pending the hearing of the appeal. The person appealing is hereafter referred to as the appellent.

(2) The grounds of appeal for the purpose of this Standing Order are:

- (i) that there was a material irregularity in how the matter was dealt with by the safeguarding panel or the risk assessor appointed under Standing Order 230(7)(b);
- (ii) that the panel or the risk assessor failed to take into account all relevant matters or took into account irrelevant ones;

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(iii) that in the light of events occurring since the direction was given or the determination was made (as the case may be), or of evidence of which the appellant could not reasonably be expected to have been aware at the time, substantial doubt has been cast upon the correctness of the direction or determination.

(3) The appellant shall within fourteen days of receiving written notice of the direction or determination give notice of the appeal in writing to the chair of the Safeguarding Committee.

(4) The notice of appeal shall be accompanied by a written statement indicating on which of the grounds in clause (2) the appeal is brought and the specific nature of any error, omission or other matter relied on. The chair of the Safeguarding Committee shall pass it to a safeguarding officer, as defined in Standing Order 230(3)(ii), who has not been involved in the direction or determination against which the appeal is brought. The safeguarding officer shall act as the convener of the panel hearing the appeal.

**232 [234] Appeal Process.** (1) The convener shall arrange for the appeal to be heard by an appeal panel which shall include one person referred to in Standing Order 230(1)(ii) (b) and two persons referred to in Standing Order 240(1)(ii)(a), and one of the latter shall chair the appeal panel. No member of the appeal panel shall have been involved in giving or making the direction or determination which is the subject of the appeal.

(2) The appeal will be by way of report and there will be no rehearing or further evidence, except evidence admitted under Standing Order 231(2)(iii) above. Any such evidence not already supplied with the notice of appeal shall be provided by the appellant to the convener no later than 14 days before the date of the meeting and copies shall be provided by the convener and the members of the appeal panel no later than seven days before the date of the meeting.

(3) At the meeting of the appeal panel a member of the safeguarding panel which gave the direction or made the determination appealed against shall first present that panel's report.

(4) The appellant shall have the right to attend and put forward his or her ~~the~~ case on the basis of the grounds of appeal specified, and to be accompanied by a friend or the relevant party (if not the appellant), who shall also have the right to speak.

(5) Members of the appeal panel who wish to raise any matter not referred to in the report given under clause (2) above shall do so before the appellant leaves the meeting and both the presenting member of the panel and the appellant shall be given an opportunity to deal with it (for which purpose the meeting shall be adjourned if necessary); no fresh matter shall be raised after the appellant has left.

(6) The convener shall make the appellant aware of the importance of attending the meeting. If ~~he or she~~ **the appellant** then refuses or fails to attend, the panel must consider the reason for his or her absence and may adjourn for that purpose. The panel may then, if it thinks fit, hear the appeal and reach a decision in the absence of the appellant.

**233 [235] Appeal Decision.** (1) The panel shall decide whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal or refer the matter back to the Safeguarding Committee for further consideration or a further risk assessment. The decision of the appeal panel shall be reached solely on the basis of the documents relied upon by the original safeguarding panel or supplied in accordance with Standing Order 232(2), the submissions presented at the meeting and any other documents which both the person representing the original panel and the appellant agree the appeal panel may consider. The appeal panel shall give reasons for its decision and shall embody them in the document announcing the decision.

(2) The decision of the panel shall be communicated to the appellant (and the relevant party if not the appellant) in writing. If the appellant is the relevant party, a copy of the decision shall also be sent to the District Chair, district safeguarding officer and the Superintendent.

**234 [236] Safeguarding Concerns and Procedures.** (1) Every member of the Methodist Church has a responsibility to children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in the life of the Church to take all reasonable steps to protect them from the risk of harm.

(2) In order to discharge that responsibility the Church follows the procedures for dealing with safeguarding concerns which are set out in clauses (5) to (10) below and in the safeguarding policies ~~and practice guidance~~ from time to time adopted by the **Methodist Connexional** Council.

(3) A safeguarding concern exists where:

- (i) the words, actions or behaviour of any person involved in the life of the Church may cause or may have caused children, young people or vulnerable adults to be abused, harmed or neglected;
- (ii) subject as provided in Standing Order 010(2), a person involved in the life of the Church has been convicted of or has received a simple or conditional caution in respect of an offence referred to in sub-clause (b) of that Standing Order; or
- (iii) a member of the Methodist Church may be failing or may have failed to exercise ~~his or her~~ **the** responsibilities **for which the member is accountable** in respect of the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in the Church context.

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(4) In relation to a safeguarding concern:

- (i) “the subject” means the person about whom the concern exists;
- (ii) “the relevant Circuit” means the Circuit in which the subject is stationed or is a member or with which, if the subject is not a minister or a member, ~~he or she~~ **the subject** has the closest connection;
- (iii) a “safeguarding officer” means the safeguarding officer as defined in Standing Order 230(3)(ii) or the District Safeguarding Officer of the District of which the relevant Circuit forms part;
- (iv) “the referring body” or “the referring person” means the body or person by whom the concern is referred to a safeguarding officer in accordance with clause (6) below.

(5) A member of the Church who becomes aware that a safeguarding concern exists must act on that concern in accordance with the safeguarding policies and practice guidance adopted by the council as currently in place.

(6) A body or person becoming aware of a safeguarding concern either in the context of a local church, circuit or district or in the exercising of a responsibility on behalf of the Church must refer that concern to a safeguarding officer.

(7) On receiving a referral under clause (6) above, the safeguarding officer in question must act in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 235 below and the safeguarding policies and practice guidance adopted by the council as currently in place.

(8) The referring body or person and the subject of the safeguarding concern shall be given an adequate opportunity to respond to any information or reports gathered or made in connection with that concern.

(9) Subject to clause (10) below, the existence of and the materials relating to any safeguarding concern shall be confidential and any member of the Methodist Church breaching this confidentiality may be the subject of a complaint under Part 11.

(10) Clause (9) above is without prejudice to the obligation of any person engaged in the investigation of a safeguarding concern to pass information to statutory agencies in accordance with guidance adopted by the council.

**235 [237] Assessment of Risk.** (1) In this Standing Order:

- (i) “blemished disclosure” has the meaning given by Standing Order 230(3)(i);
- (ii) “the subject” and a “safeguarding officer” have the meanings given by Standing Order 234(4); and
- (iii) “the District Safeguarding Officer” means the safeguarding officer of the District of which the relevant Circuit forms part.



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(2) When a safeguarding concern is referred to a safeguarding officer under Standing Order 234(6), the officer will undertake an initial exploration into that concern in order to determine whether a connexional or district risk assessment should be undertaken.

(3) A connexional or district risk assessment may be undertaken in relation to any person about whom a safeguarding concern exists in the context of a local church, circuit or district or in the exercising of a responsibility on behalf of the Church in accordance with the provisions of this Standing Order.

(4) A connexional safeguarding officer acting on behalf of the Safeguarding Committee may require a connexional risk assessment following a request from a District Safeguarding Officer or in any other case when:

- (i) a safeguarding concern exists about any person wanting to worship or continue to worship in a Methodist church;
- (ii) a person to whom Standing Order 690(1) applies wishes to worship or continue to worship in a Methodist church;
- (iii) a safeguarding concern exists about a person wishing to hold or continue to hold a role or responsibility to which Standing Order 010(3) applies;
- (iv) a request is made by a church court or body under Standing Order 010(5);
- (v) a blemished disclosure reveals a safeguarding concern about a person wanting to hold or continue to hold a role or responsibility to which Standing Order 010(3) applies;
- (vi) a referral is made to the committee under the provisions of any of Standing Orders 731(7A), 725(6) and 761(15);
- (vii) a referral is made to the committee under Standing Order 1102(9);
- (viii) a referral is made to the committee under Standing Order 690A in connection with the review of a contract;
- (ix) a statutory agency provides information which reveals a safeguarding concern or requests that a risk assessment be undertaken.

(5) A connexional risk assessment shall be undertaken by a suitably qualified assessor upon the instruction of a connexional safeguarding officer acting pursuant to clause (4) above and upon completion shall be provided to the Safeguarding Committee for use in the discharge of a function of the committee under Standing Order 230(4).

(6) When a connexional safeguarding officer determines that a connexional risk assessment is required, the officer shall consult with the referring person or body to determine the terms of reference for the risk assessment.

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(7) A district risk assessment may be undertaken:

- (i) before a contract under Standing Order 690(2)(c) is entered into;
- (ii) (in conjunction with a connexional safeguarding officer) where a change in the terms of such a contract is sought;
- (iii) where the District Safeguarding Officer is informed of a blemished disclosure;
- (iv) at the request of a connexional safeguarding officer made in accordance with the safeguarding policies and practice guidance adopted by the **Methodist Connexional** Council as currently in place.

(8) A district risk assessment shall be undertaken by a safeguarding officer or a person in relation to whom that officer exercises the power to delegate that responsibility.

(9) Any person who is the subject of a safeguarding concern will be expected to participate in any risk assessment process required by a safeguarding officer pursuant to clause (4) or clause (7) above.

(10) If the subject of a safeguarding concern declines to participate in such a risk assessment, the assessment may continue without such participation.

(11) The subject, the District Chair, the District Safeguarding Officer (if not conducting the assessment) and the Superintendent of the relevant Circuit shall be given the opportunity to speak to the risk assessor.

(12) The risk assessor shall speak to such other person or persons as ~~he or she~~ **the assessor** reasonably considers necessary.

(13) The responsible officer as defined by Standing Order 013(2)(ii) shall be responsible for ensuring pastoral support is offered to the subject, such persons connected with the subject as the officer thinks fit and any person referring the safeguarding concern.

(14) Upon completion of the risk assessment, the risk assessor shall send a copy of the report to the subject. The subject shall have 14 days to provide any comments on the report before it is considered by the Safeguarding Committee in accordance with Standing Order 230(4) or by the District Safeguarding Officer for the purpose of giving directions or guidance or making recommendations.

(15) A copy of the risk assessment together with a copy of any comments provided by the subject shall be sent to the District Safeguarding Officer (in the case of a connexional risk assessment) and to the line manager of a subject who is employed by a church court (in any case). A summary of the risk assessment shall be sent to the District Chair and Superintendent referred to in clause (11) above and, where relevant, to any group appointed under Standing **Order** 690(2)(a) in relation to the subject. The District

Safeguarding Officer may provide copies of the risk assessment or the summary to other persons in accordance with the safeguarding policies and practice guidance adopted by the council as currently in place.

(16) When a blemished disclosure or any related matter or application is referred to a safeguarding officer, the officer may:

- (i) give directions to and offer guidance on the steps to be taken by any relevant appointing body in respect of that disclosure, matter or application; or
- (ii) refer that disclosure, matter or application to the Safeguarding Committee to give directions to and offer guidance on the steps to be taken by that appointing body following a connexional risk assessment.

(17) Instead of or prior to commissioning or carrying out a risk assessment, a safeguarding officer may take such other reasonable steps for the protection of children, young people or vulnerable adults as are consistent with the safeguarding policies and practice guidance adopted by the council as currently in place.

(18) In relation to a person employed under a contract of employment, this Standing Order shall apply only so far as consistent with the terms of that contract and employment legislation.

### **Section 24 Methodist Children and Youth Assembly**

*[In section 1 of the Methodist Council report part 2 (report 22) of the Agenda a substantially re-drafted Standing Order is presented for adoption. If adopted, the changes that would otherwise have been proposed in this Oversight and Trusteeship report would not require to be dealt with, and therefore they are not printed here. If the Conference is not minded to adopt the proposed re-draft, the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee will present the changes required to give effect to the Oversight and Trusteeship, and Composition of the Conference, reports.]*

### **Section 25 Committees for the Authorisation of Ordained Vocations**

**250 [320] Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation.** (1) There shall be a connexional Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation appointed annually by the Conference and consisting of:

- (i) two Team members responsible for initial presbyteral and diaconal training and candidates, and
- (ii) not more than eighty other persons nominated by the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee** of whom not more than twelve shall be involved in initial ministerial training.

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In addition the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order shall have the right to attend meetings of the committee but shall have no vote.

(2) If it becomes apparent that the number of members of the committee appointed under head (ii) of clause (1) above who are able to attend any of its meetings in a particular year will be insufficient for the proper conduct of the committee's business, the council **Ministries Committee** shall co-opt as necessary further members who have appropriate prior experience. Such co-opted members will be members of the committee for the year of co-option only. Any such co-options shall be reported to the subsequent Conference.

(3) **The committee's primary responsibilities are:** (i) ~~to The committee shall recommend to the Conference Diaconal Committee the names of those to be accepted as candidates for the diaconate;~~

(ii) ~~to The committee shall recommend to the Presbyteral Session of the Conference the names of those to be accepted as candidates for the presbyterate.~~

**(4) It shall discharge those responsibilities in accordance with the provisions laid down in section 71 of Standing Orders, and carry out such other functions as the Conference, by Standing Order or otherwise, requires it to fulfil.**

**251 [326A] Appeals** The Methodist Council **Ministries Committee** shall appoint an Appeals Panel consisting of persons who are not members of the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation to deal with appeals under Standing Order 716 or 722(3). The council **Ministries Committee** shall also appoint a convener of Appeals Committees.

**252 [321] Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.** (1) The Methodist Council **Conference** shall annually appoint a connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee consisting of:

- (i) no more than two representatives of oversight committees of training institutions;
- (ii) three persons each of whom has recent and relevant experience of discerning vocation for candidates; and
- (iii) three persons each of whom is a current or recent member of a district Probationers Committee;
- (iv) one district Chair;
- (v) one recent ordinand in their third, fourth or fifth year of ministry;
- (vi) two of the Team members responsible for presbyteral candidates, initial presbyteral training and presbyteral probationers;

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- (vii) further deacons where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;
- (viii) further lay people where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;
- (ix) further presbyters where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;
- (x) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order;
- (xi) up to five further members, selected in collaboration with the Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee, to ensure that leadership is offered regarding the concerns of justice, dignity and solidarity, having regard to the leadership also offered by other members of the committee;
- (xii) a further member to be the safeguarding adviser to the committee if no other member of the committee is able to act as the safeguarding adviser.

For the purposes of this sub-clause a person is a recent member of a committee or ordinand during the three years after membership ceased or after ordination (as the case may require).

(2) The persons under heads (i) and (ii) of clause (1) above shall be nominated by the committees concerned by agreement among themselves as necessary.

(3) The committee shall be no smaller than 14 members and no larger than 20 members.

(4) The Secretary of the Stationing Advisory Committee shall be entitled to attend and speak at meetings as consultant to the committee when the business requires it.

(5) (a) The term of appointment will usually be six years, subject to agreement with the person concerned, but the person appointed under head (v) of clause (1) above shall be appointed for a term of three years only.

(b) A member of the committee appointed under heads (i), (ii), (v) to (viii) of clause (1) above is not required to vacate office if no longer eligible for initial appointment in the category in which that member was appointed or if an appointment in that category is no longer required.

(c) A member of the committee who has already served a six year term may only be appointed again if the nomination is supported by a minuted recommendation from the committee.

(6) The member appointed under head (iv) of clause (1) above shall chair the committee. The committee shall appoint two deputy chairs from among its members who shall serve for an initial period of three years, which may be extended.

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(7) All members of the committee must have undertaken foundation level safeguarding training before their appointment takes effect. The committee must ensure that its members receive up-to-date training thereafter.

(8) In nominating members to the ~~Council~~ **Conference** for appointment the **Ministries** ~~Committee~~ must seek to ensure that the committee includes members from all of the stationing regions and that a balance of age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and order of ministry is maintained.

(9) When the business so requires, a Welsh-speaking member of Wales Synod Cymru shall attend meetings as a consultant.

(10) Reporting to the Ministries Committee as provided in Standing Order 311 the committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of candidates for ordained ministry, the administration of the regulations for candidates, and decisions about training requirements. It shall have oversight of the whole period of a person's training from acceptance as a candidate by the Conference until reception into Full Connexion and ordination, and in particular shall perform the functions prescribed in Section 72.

(11) The committee shall appoint one or more student oversight committees for each training institution.

(12) (a) The committee shall co-ordinate and guide the work of the oversight tutors of the training institutions in so far as it relates to the oversight of student presbyters and deacons. The oversight tutors shall ensure that reports and other services for the connexional and local committees are provided as required.

(b) For every training institution, whether under the authority of the Conference or otherwise, the Conference shall appoint, upon the nomination of the ~~Methodist Council~~ **Ministries Committee**, one or more oversight tutors to assist the student and connexional oversight committees in performing the functions specified in Standing Orders. Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility.

(c) In relation to institutions within sub-clause (b) above any reference in these Standing Orders to the principal shall, unless this clause is expressly excluded or the context otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to the relevant Methodist oversight tutor.

### Section 26 Stationing

**260 [322] Stationing Committee** (1) There shall be a connexional Stationing Committee appointed annually by the Conference, ~~on the nomination of the Methodist Council~~, which shall consist of:

- (i) a lay chair, being the person for the time being appointed to that office in accordance with clause (1A) below;
- (ii) the Secretary of the Conference who shall act as convener, and the assistant secretary of the Conference;
- (iii) seven district Chairs, one of whom shall be the district Chair appointed under Standing Order 286 to be a member of the Forces Board, and seven district Lay Stationing Representatives appointed with a view to the representation of suitable regional groupings of Districts;
- (iv) no more than two Team members with responsibility for presbyteral and diaconal selection and training and for the stationing of probationers;
- (v) the chair of the Stationing Advisory Committee;
- (vi) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order;
- (vii) the chair and a lay member of the Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee;
- (viii) the chair of the group responsible on behalf of the Stationing Committee for overseeing the matching of particular presbyters to appointments;
- (ix) the convener of the Stationing Action Group appointed in accordance with clause (8) below.

(2) A lay person shall be appointed by the Conference as chair of the committee. ~~Subject to Standing Order 316, he or she~~ **The chair** shall be appointed **for a period not exceeding six years** in the first instance for six years and may be appointed for further periods of one or more years thereafter. Any nomination for appointment beyond six years shall require a resolution of the ~~Methodist Council~~ **Ministries Committee** carried by a majority of 75% of those present and voting and reported, with a reasoned statement, to the Conference. No person shall hold office as chair for more than nine years consecutively.

(3) The chair of the committee and the Secretary and assistant secretary of the Conference shall attend the committee only in their official character as specially charged with the general interests of the whole Church and shall not be eligible for appointment in any other capacity.

(4) The committee shall, as prescribed in Section 78, recommend to the Conference the stations for the ensuing year of presbyters, deacons and probationers to the several Districts and Circuits, including presbyters and deacons in chaplaincies

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and appointments not within the control of the Church. Reporting to the Ministries Committee as provided in Standing Order 311 it shall advise on stationing policy, and in particular shall assess priorities for the appointments to be made by the Conference of the next connexional year and, after appropriate consultation, for the appointment of additional presbyters and deacons in the Circuits and Districts. It shall obtain and consider information and opinions offered by district Policy Committees and the Connexional Team. It shall keep under review the stationing code of practice and shall determine the number of stations available to ministers of other Conferences and Churches not already serving the Church.

(5) Discussion in the committee about particular ministers and appointments shall be absolutely confidential.

(6) The committee shall appoint a Diaconal Stationing Sub-committee to advise the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order upon the recommendations to be made for diaconal stationing under Standing Order 783 and related matters.

(7) The committee shall appoint an Action Group to deal with stationing difficulties and emergencies as they arise.

(8) The committee shall have power to appoint other sub-committees to carry out aspects of its work, but all actions of such sub-committees shall be subject to the approval of the committee.

**261 [323] Stationing Advisory Committee.** (1) The Methodist Council **Stationing Committee** shall annually appoint a Stationing Advisory Committee.

(2) The committee shall:

- (i) explore the opportunities for ministry in various areas of society and community life and in ecumenical agencies and, where appropriate, encourage presbyters and deacons with suitable qualifications to consider applying for such appointments;
- (ii) receive, co-ordinate and interpret reports of such ministries;
- (iii) consult with the members of the Connexional Team who have responsibilities for work done by presbyters and deacons in chaplaincies and appointments not within the control of the Church;
- (iv) consider applications from presbyters and deacons in Full Connexion and probationers for full-time service in chaplaincies and appointments not within the control of the Church, and from employing authorities;
- (v) report on such applications and opportunities with recommendations to the Stationing Committee to be presented, if they are approved, to the Conference as an integral part of the stations;



- (vi) advise on the movements of presbyters and deacons within such appointments and between them and Circuits in the light of the initial and subsequent reviews of deployment prescribed by Standing Order 781;
- (vii) perform the functions prescribed by Standing Order 802 in relation to part-time appointments;
- (viii) perform the functions prescribed by Standing Orders 790(3) and 793(1) in relation to applications to become a supernumerary or to return to the active work;
- (ix) advise the President or the Vice-President on his or her behalf **of the President** on recommendations which would involve a presbyter's or deacon's moving during the course of the connexional year;
- (x) perform such other functions as may be required from time to time by Standing Orders.

(3) If any application or potential application under clause (2)(i) or (iv) above involves the possibility of the curtailment of a current period of invitation or appointment or deemed invitation or appointment of a person in a circuit appointment the committee shall consult the circuit Invitation Committee and take its views into account.

### **Section 27 Educational bodies**

**270** [This enacts the provision for the Inspiring Lives Education Trust, as reported to the Conference of 2023.] **Inspiring Lives Education Trust**

**The Methodist Conference shall exercise any powers it may have in accordance with the Articles of The Inspiring Lives Education Trust to nominate and remove any member or members of the board of that body.**

**271** [243A] [The Epworth Education Trust was formed following the merger of the Wesley Trust and the Acorn Trust in November 2020. The Wesley Trust was previously dealt with in Standing Order 243.] **The Epworth Education Trust.**

The Methodist Conference shall exercise its powers contained in the articles of the Epworth Education Trust to appoint up to twelve directors nominated by the members of the company **any powers it may have in accordance with the Articles of The Epworth Education Trust to nominate and remove any member or members of the board of that body.**

**272** [342] **State Funded Schools (including academies, free schools and children's centres where appropriate).** (1) (a) The Methodist **Connexional** Council **through the Ministries Committee** is responsible for the oversight of Methodist state funded schools and for Methodist responsibilities in the oversight of state funded schools which are ecumenical projects with other denominations.

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(b) The Methodist council shall also be responsible for matters within the state funded schools relating to standards, ethos and school improvement.

(2) The Connexional Team shall, as may be necessary, consider government legislation which affects the governance of these schools and any directive or proposal by a local authority or other body or denomination which may affect individual schools.

(3) The Team shall give information and counsel to the Policy Committee of each District in which schools are situated to enable it to carry out its responsibilities to watch over the interest of those schools.

(4) Any proposal to alter the category or status of a Methodist or ecumenical school must be reported by the governors to the trustees, the district Policy Committee and the Connexional Team member with responsibility for these schools.

(5) No Methodist state funded school may be discontinued at the instance of its governors or trustees until permission has been given by the Methodist Council. The governors and trustees shall submit any recommendation for discontinuance to the district Policy Committee for its advice before seeking the permission of the council or taking any steps towards closure.

(6) Any proposal to promote a Methodist state funded school or to join in promoting an ecumenical school shall be reported by the Superintendent of the Circuit concerned to the district Policy Committee, the Connexional Team member with responsibility for these schools and the connexional Property Secretary.

*[As to the Property Secretary see S.O. 006(2A).]*

(7) No arrangements for new leases of Methodist property to the Local Education Authority or to the governors of an ecumenical state funded school for the purpose of a school shall be made and no arrangements for the renewal of such leases shall be made until after consultation with the Connexional Team member with responsibility for these schools and the connexional Property Secretary.

*[As to the Property Secretary see S.O. 006(2A).]*

(8) Trustees of Methodist property used as a state funded school shall ensure that the premises are adequately insured and, in the case of controlled schools, require that the trustees' interest in the property is safeguarded in the insurance policy taken out on the premises by a local education authority.

(9) Every Instrument of Government for a Methodist or ecumenical school shall include a place as ex-officio Foundation Governor for the Circuit Superintendent or ~~his or her~~ **the** nominee **of the said Superintendent**, and shall require to be approved by the Connexional Team member responsible for these schools.

(10) No proposal for a Methodist or ecumenical school shall receive approval unless the school's admissions policy complies with the Statutory Admissions Code and gives priority to children living nearest the school. All admissions policies for Methodist or ecumenical state funded schools require the approval of the Connexional Team member responsible for these schools.

**273 [244 and 343] Independent Schools.** (1) The Conference shall exercise its powers contained in the articles of Methodist Independent Schools Trust (a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales) ("the Company"), being the incorporated governing body of schools held on the trusts of The Methodist Independent Education Trust Deed of 1903 (as amended), to appoint the trustees of the Company, in accordance with and subject to the Company's articles, as follows:

- (i) the chair of the Company;
- (ii) three persons nominated by the Company on the recommendation of the Chairs of Governors of the schools held on the trusts of The Methodist Independent Education Trust Deed of 1903 (as amended);
- (iii) up to five persons nominated by the **Methodist Connexional** Council; and
- (iv) up to five other persons nominated by the Company.

(2) The Company shall bring **the** nominations to the Conference for the appointments to be made under clause (1) above.

(3) The Company shall appoint one of its members to be the deputy chair of the Company in accordance with its articles.

(4) **The following clauses of this Standing Order relate** ~~This Standing Order relates to all the schools subject to the Methodist Independent Education Trust Deed of 1903.~~

(5) Connexional policy in relation to those schools shall be within the purview of the **Methodist Connexional** Council.

(6) In recommending to the Conference the appointment of presbyters as chaplains to such schools the Stationing Committee shall take into consideration any invitations duly

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given and accepted. For that purpose Standing Orders 543 to 545 shall apply with the substitution of references to the school for those to the Circuit and with the following further adaptations:

- (i) The functions of the Circuit Meeting and its invitation committee shall be exercised by the head teacher or by the Governing Body or the Methodist Independent Schools Trust, as may be appropriate, having regard in particular to responsibility for making appointments to the teaching staff. Any doubt as to the appropriate person or body shall be resolved by the **Team member Connexional-Secretary** responsible for secondary education affairs. Whoever of the above exercises such functions shall at each stage inform and consult the other and the **Connexional-Secretary relevant Team member**.
- (ii) In clause (1)(a)(i) of Standing Order 544 delete 'after consulting the church stewards of the Local Churches in which the person concerned exercises pastoral responsibility'.
- (iii) For clause (1) of Standing Order 545 substitute '(1) No presbyter shall be appointed chaplain to the same school for more than five successive years except upon an invitation given in accordance with clause (2) or (3) of this Standing Order.'

(7) Every such chaplain shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District.

**274 [343A] Methodist Schools Committee.** The **Methodist Connexional** Council shall annually appoint the Methodist Schools Committee which shall:

- (i) encourage collaboration and the sharing of resources between all the bodies responsible for undertaking the council's responsibilities under Standing Orders 272 and 273;
- (ii) encourage the development of all the above bodies' and Methodist schools' understanding of the Methodist ethos;
- (iii) report annually to the Methodist Conference, through the **Methodist Council**, on behalf of all the bodies responsible for undertaking the council's responsibilities in respect of schools.

**275 [344] Institutions in the Higher Education Sector.** (1) This Standing Order applies to the appointment of a presbyter as:

- (i) the chaplain to Southlands College; or
- (ii) the Westminster chaplain, Oxford Brookes University.

(2) In recommending to the Conference the appointment of such a presbyter the Stationing Committee shall take into consideration any invitations duly given

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and accepted. The invitation and re-invitation process shall follow, as closely as circumstances allow, the equivalent provision in Standing Orders and Guidance approved by the Conference as to circuit appointments. The functions which, in the case of a circuit appointment, would be performed by the circuit stewards, Circuit Meeting or invitation committee shall be performed:

- (i) as to the Southlands chaplain, by the Methodist members of the Southlands Liaison Group; and
- (ii) as to the Westminster chaplain, by the directors of Westminster College Oxford Trust Limited, acting in consultation with the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of Oxford Brookes University. In either instance the persons so acting shall appoint one or two of their number to fulfil the functions performed by the circuit stewards in such a case.

(3) Those responsible for the process shall act in consultation with the relevant member of the Connexional Team.

(4) The initial invitation to a presbyter shall be for a period of five years, no annual invitation being necessary during that period.

(5) In the fifth year the invitation may be extended for a specified number of years not exceeding five, and in the final year of this extension, and of any subsequent agreed extension, shall be open to further extension, on each occasion for a specified number of years not exceeding five.

(6) No presbyter shall be appointed chaplain under this Standing Order for more than five successive years except upon an invitation given in accordance with clause (5) above.

(7) Standing Order 544 shall apply to appointments made under clause (2) above, with the following adaptations:

- (i) for references to the circuit Invitation Committee substitute as to the Southlands College chaplain: the Methodist members of the Southlands Liaison group; as to the Westminster chaplain: the directors of Westminster College Oxford Trust Limited (acting in consultation, as in clause (2)(ii));
- (ii) in clause (1)(a)(i) of Standing Order 544 delete 'after consulting the church stewards of the Local Churches in which the person concerned exercises pastoral responsibility'.

(8) Each such chaplain shall act in respect of ministerial duties under the direction of the Chair of the District.

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### Section 28 Conference Properties and Other Bodies

**280 [220] The New Room, Bristol.** (1) The Conference ~~Connexional Council~~ shall, ***in exercising its powers of appointment in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2(1)(dA) of the Model Trusts***, annually appoint managing trustees ***as provided below*** for ***the Conference Property at*** John Wesley's Chapel (the New Room), and 4 Charles Street (Charles Wesley's house) and 5 Charles Street, Bristol.

(2) The trustees shall be:

- (i) the Secretary of the Conference;
- (ii) the Chair of the Bristol District;
- (iii) the Superintendent of the Bristol and South Gloucestershire Circuit;
- (iv) the warden of the New Room;
- (v) not more than twenty other persons.

(3) The trustees shall appoint a chair, a secretary and a treasurer from among their own number, ***with the agreement of the council.***

**281 [223] Westminster Central Hall.** (1) The ~~Connexional Council~~ Conference shall, ***in exercising its powers of appointment in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2(1)(dA) of the Model Trusts***, annually appoint, ***as provided below***, the managing trustees of Westminster Central Hall, ***as a Conference Property.***

(2) The trustees shall be one of the Chairs of the London District, the Superintendent of the Westminster Circuit and not more than 22 other persons.

(3) The trustees shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer from among their own number.

(4) The chair of the trustees shall be ***appointed by the council, upon the nomination of the Nominations Committee*** the Chair of the London District appointed as a trustee, ~~unless the Conference appoints another person upon the nomination of the trustees and with the concurrence of the persons who will be the Chairs of the London District in the relevant connexional year.~~

**282 [240] Action for Children.** The Conference shall exercise any powers it may have under the constitution of Action for Children to appoint and remove any member or members of the board of that body. ~~Clauses (2), (4) and (5) of Standing Order 203 and Standing Order 206 shall apply to nominations for any such appointments. The names of members of the board appointed otherwise than by the Conference shall be reported to the Conference each year.~~

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**283** [241] **Methodist Homes.** The Conference shall exercise its powers of nominating any member of the board of Methodist Homes in accordance with the constitution of that body as amended from time to time. ~~The provisions of Standing Order 206 shall apply to the proposal of any such name as if it were a Conference appointment.~~

**284** [242] **Methodist Women in Britain.** (1) There shall be a body known as Methodist Women in Britain which shall encourage and support activities primarily but not exclusively by and among women which are within the purposes of the Methodist Church, subject to any Standing Orders applying to such activities.

(2) Without limiting the generality of clause (1) above the activities of Methodist Women in Britain shall include the furtherance of fellowship and training and of mission at home and overseas.

~~(3) Methodist Women in Britain may report to the Conference through the Methodist Council.~~

(3) There shall be a president of Methodist Women in Britain, chosen biennially by consultation among district representatives of Methodist Women in Britain during the year next but one before the year of taking office. The president shall hold office as such for two connexional years and during the year before taking that office and also the year after leaving it is the vice-president.

(4) Methodist Women in Britain shall act on behalf of the women of the Church as the British unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and through the Methodist Council **Mission Committee** shall nominate to the Conference representatives to the assemblies of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

**285** [245] **Methodist Relief and Development Fund ("All We Can").** The trustees of the fund shall be appointed by the Methodist **Connexional** Council, and shall include at least one member of the council. The working relationship between the fund and the Connexional Team shall be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding.

### **286** [1007] **The Forces**

*[In section O of the Methodist Council report part 2 (Report 22) of the Agenda a substantially re-drafted Standing Order is presented for adoption. It incorporates (at (1) and (1B)(vi) and in its cross-references) the changes that would otherwise have been proposed in this Oversight and Trusteeship report. If the Conference is not minded to adopt the proposed re-draft, the Law and Polity Conference Sub-committee will present whatever changes are nevertheless still required in relation to the clauses and cross-references mentioned above, in line with this Oversight and Trusteeship report.]*

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### **Section 29 Connexional Panels and Connexional Leadership Meetings**

**290** [231] *[This Standing Order has been left unamended for the time being this year. It is anticipated that it will be reviewed in the light of any amendments or additions brought in subsequent years as to eg Safeguarding and Part 11 of Standing Orders.]*

**Connexional Panel for Discipline, Pastoral and Appeal Committees** (1) The Conference shall annually appoint a Panel of persons from which members may from time to time be chosen to serve on:

- (i) connexional Discipline Committees convened under Standing Order 1131 or 1141, connexional Pastoral Committees convened under Standing Order 013 or 042 and connexional Pastoral Committees of Appeal convened under Standing Order 056 and
- (ii) connexional Appeal Committees convened under Standing Order 1141, 033 or 042(4).

(2) There shall be two conveners of the Panel, responsible respectively for each of the heads specified in clause (1) above, together with such number of deputy conveners as may be appropriate. All these persons shall be appointed from among the members of the Panel by the Conference or, if a casual vacancy occurs or those appointed are disqualified or, by reason of the number of cases to be dealt with, more require to be appointed, by the President after consultation with the Vice-President.

(3) The Panel shall include an appropriate number of persons selected for their qualifications or experience to chair Discipline and Appeal Committees and identified as such in the resolution of appointment.

(4) A deputy appointed under this Standing Order may exercise any power, fulfil any duty or function, and occupy any position conferred on the relevant convener or officer by any Standing Order.

### **291 Connexional Panel for Review Groups**

The Conference shall annually appoint a panel of appropriately qualified and experienced persons from which members may from time to time be chosen to serve on any group (whether referred to as a review group or otherwise) which is required by any Standing Order to be established for the purpose of considering and, as the case may be, making recommendations or decisions in relation to the matters specified in the relevant Standing Order. The Conference shall further appoint such number of conveners as are thought to be required to deal with the number of cases which are likely to arise.



**292 [32A4] Connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry.** (1) The Conference shall appoint annually a panel of persons, to be known as the connexional Panel on Deliverance Ministry, upon the nomination of the Ministries Committee made in accordance with the terms of reference for the panel adopted from time to time, **after consultation with the Faith and Order Committee, by the Ministries Committee** the Methodist Council.

(2) The panel shall have the responsibilities set out in such terms of reference, which shall include the arrangements, terms and conditions for the grant of authorisation of persons as practitioners in the field of deliverance ministry.

**293** [*This Standing Order has been included, with the necessary consequential amendments, but a resolution is brought to suspend its operation for a further period.*]

### **The Connexional Leaders' Forum.** [230]

(1) Leaders appointed by the Conference to exercise oversight in particular bodies or spheres of responsibility shall work together collegially in the oversight of the whole Church. The leaders listed in (2) below shall meet together as often as practicable to watch over one another in love in order to support each person in the exercise of his or her particular responsibilities, to engage in prayerful theological reflection, to share insights and develop vision, and to confer about how the vision and policies adopted by the Conference might be implemented in the Church.

(2) The Connexional Leaders' Forum shall consist of:

- (i) the Secretary of the Conference;
- (iA) the assistant secretary of the Conference;
- (ii) The President, Vice-President, ex-President, ex-Vice-President, President-Designate and Vice-President-Designate of the Conference;
- (iii) the District Chairs;
- (iv) the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order;
- (v) the Connexional *Secretaryies* as defined in Standing Order 383;
- (vAvi) the members of the senior management group as defined in Standing Order 383 not otherwise forming part of the Connexional Leaders' Forum under this clause;
- (vii) the chair of the ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council;
- ~~(vii) the chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee;~~
- (viii) the chair of the Ministries Committee**
- (ix) the chair of the Mission Committee**
- (x) the chair of the Resourcing Committee**
- ~~(ix)~~ **(xi)** the Youth President.

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(3) Other persons appointed by the Conference to fulfil connexional duties shall be invited to form part of the Forum on particular occasions, as appropriate.

**294 [230A] Chairs' Meeting.** There shall be a meeting of the Chairs of the home Districts not less than three times a year for the discussion of stationing issues and other matters of mutual concern, and reflection upon the work of God in the Districts and Connexion **and consideration of whether there any matters that the meeting believes to be necessary or appropriate to bring to the Conference's or Connexional Council's attention.** The expenses of these meetings shall be pooled and charged to the District Expenses Funds of the Districts, assisted by a grant from the Methodist Church Fund.

### **PART 3 COUNCIL-APPOINTED COMMITTEES AND AREAS OF WORK**

#### **Section 30 The main Council Committees: general provisions**

**300 The Main Council Committees: appointment** (1) This Standing Order applies to the appointment of the following committees:

- the Ministries Committee
- the Mission Committee
- the Resourcing Committee

referred to here and elsewhere as 'the main council committees'.

(2) The Connexional Council shall appoint the main council committees, to which the following clauses shall apply.

(3) Each such committee shall have a chair and a deputy chair (or more than one such deputy, if so approved by the council), all being appointed by the council.

(4) The council shall work in consultation with the Nominations Committee, in accordance with that committee's responsibilities under Standing Order 220, to make the appointments under clauses (2) and (3) above. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of Standing Order 016 do not apply to nominations brought to the council by the committee.

(5) All persons appointed to the main council committees shall initially be appointed for a period of three years and may be reappointed for a further period of no more than three years. The council may only extend the appointment for a further period beyond the initial reappointment if it is satisfied that there is good reason to do so in the light of a statement by the Nominations Committee as to the exceptional nature of the circumstances which have led the committee to make the further nomination.

(6) Each committee may invite such other observers or consultants, from within and beyond the Connexional Team, as are appropriate.

**301 Responsibilities** (1) The respective general areas of responsibility of the main council committees shall be as delineated in Standing Orders 311, 321 and 361 below, together with any other Standing Orders which specifically allocate functions to any of those committees, but the Connexional Council shall have power, for the better fulfilment of its purposes, to redistribute particular areas of work between the committees, reporting such decisions to the Conference, with such recommendations as to the amendment of the Standing Orders as are necessary.

(2) The main council committees shall each work under the oversight of the council, and in accordance with any applicable Standing Orders and, subject to those Standing Orders, with such terms of reference as are approved from time to time by the council.

**302 Reporting** Each main council committee shall report primarily to the Connexional Council, but where the matter being reported upon concerns the committee's direct responsibility to the Conference, as provided in the relevant Standing Orders, the committee shall report directly to the Conference.

### **303 Authority to appoint groups**

In addition to any such appointments required by Standing Orders, the main council committees may appoint such sub-committees, task groups, working parties or other groups as are necessary to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities, in each case determining their powers and functions and clarifying where relevant the extent of any delegation of the committee's powers. Where it is intended that a group is intended to have responsibilities of a continuing nature rather than for a time-limited piece of work or where it is to have delegated powers, the permission of the Connexional Council to the inclusion of such terms shall be obtained.

## **Section 31 The Church in Ministry and Mission: Ministries Committee and Training**

**310 [32A0(2)] Ministries Committee: appointment.** In exercising its power of appointment of the Ministries Committee under Standing Order 300, the Connexional Council shall ensure that as far as possible the members of the committee between them shall represent the interests of:

- (i) the ordained and lay ministries and offices of the Church, including local preachers and stewards;
- (ii) the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation and the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the Stationing Committee.

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### 311 [32A1] **Ministries Committee: general responsibilities**

(1) The committee shall ~~seek report to the Methodist Council~~ to enable the Church to develop and maintain a strategic vision for the use of ordained, accredited, commissioned and informal ministries and offices throughout the Connexion.

(2) The committee shall be accountable to the Conference through the **Connexional Council** for:

- (i) developing and supporting the processes relating to the oversight, accountability and professional development of those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
- (ii) developing and supporting programmes for nourishing, equipping and resourcing those engaged in the ministries and offices of the Church;
- (iii) developing and supporting the Church's structures, partnerships and resources for learning, training, quality assurance, scholarship, research and development;
- (iv) in collaboration with other bodies, supporting the development of structures that enable the use of various forms of ministry as resources for mission within Circuits and Districts;
- (v) overseeing connexional policy regarding its ordained ministries, including that relating to the processes for offering as a candidate, the oversight of students and probationers, and stationing, but without adjudicating on individual cases, which shall remain the task of the bodies appointed to fulfil that responsibility.

(3) The committee may, after consultation with the ~~Methodist Council~~, report to the Conference on matters of policy or process requiring the attention of the Conference that have been identified by the committee or by the Committee for the Discernment of Ordained Vocation, the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, the Stationing Committee or the Stationing Advisory Committee.

(4) The committee shall recommend to the Conference, through the council, ~~selection-~~**discernment** criteria for adoption under Standing Order 7-10A**710(5)** and, as required, amendments to those criteria.

### 312 **Ministerial and Lay Education and Training**

(1) [340A] The ~~Methodist Council~~ **Connexional Council**, **acting through the Ministries Committee**, is responsible for the oversight of theological colleges and other training institutions and shall bring nominations to the Conference for the appointment of oversight tutors to carry out the functions described in Standing Order 252(12).

(2) [341] The ~~Methodist Council~~ shall appoint the Cliff College Committee to serve as the governing body of the college. The council and the committee shall maintain,

administer and develop the work of the college in all its aspects in accordance with their respective powers under the trusts applying to the college and its associated property and funds.

*[There are other areas of training elsewhere in Standing Orders which come under the aegis of the Ministries Committee. See in particular Section 56 on Local Preachers and 56A on Local Lay-Pastors.]*

### **Section 32 The Church in Ministry and Mission: Mission Committee and the Church's relationship with partners**

**320** [1000A0(2)] **Mission Committee: appointment** In exercising its power of appointment of the Mission Committee under Standing Order 300, the Connexional Council shall ensure that as far as possible a diversity of persons involved in varied missional activities in differing contexts is included.

### **321** [1000 and 1000A1] **Mission Committee: general responsibilities**

(1) The committee shall ~~report to the Methodist Council~~ **seek** to enable the Church to develop and maintain a strategic vision for mission.

(2) The committee shall be accountable to the Conference through the ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council for:

- (i) developing and supporting the mission of the Church both locally and globally, embracing the Conference's affirmation that ***(whilst the terms 'overseas' and 'home' have the meanings and uses assigned to them in the Deed of Union and Standing Orders)*** there is no distinction between the nature of mission exercised in different parts of the world;
- (ii) developing, supporting and reviewing initiatives for nourishing, equipping, resourcing and accompanying those engaged in the mission of the Church both locally and globally;
- (iii) overseeing connexional policy for mission;
- (iv) determining the processes, and overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the disbursement of grants or funds, for mission in Britain.

(3) The committee may, after consultation with the ~~Methodist Council~~ report to the Conference on matters of policy or process requiring the attention of the Conference.

***(4) Within its general responsibilities for the missional activity of the Church in its widest sense shall be included the functions specifically referred to in this section or elsewhere in Standing Orders, but also whatever wider areas of work will enhance and support God's***

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*mission in the world, for instance, through evangelism and growth; through embracing and advocating for justice in the Church and the world; through nurturing of work among children, young people and families.*

### 322 Relationships with Global Partners and Partner Churches

[335] (1) The **Mission Committee** shall annually appoint a Global Relationships Committee consisting of not more than ten members which shall report to the Mission Committee.

[1002A] (2) ***In fulfilment of the commitment of the Methodist Church in Britain to work in partnership with Churches across the world, the Global Relationships Committee shall annually appoint the World Mission Fund Grants Committee, which shall include a representative of the Methodist Church in Ireland and with a majority of the committee having been nominated by partner Churches across the world. Its responsibility shall be, within the parameters set by the Connexional Council, to administer the grants allocated under Standing Order 373(2) below, reporting thereon annually to the Global Relationships Committee.***

(3) The ~~Methodist Council~~ shall provide reports to the Conference on global relationships.

(4) [1002(1) and (2)]~~The Methodist Council~~ shall be responsible for implementing the declared commitment of the Conference to the engagement of the Methodist Church in Britain with Churches across the world in a spirit of partnership, collaboration and mutuality through the sharing of resources of all kinds including the interchange of personnel. To that end it shall arrange for the selection, training and appointment of men and women for service overseas as mission partners with an autonomous conference or united church or other agency in accordance with mutually agreed arrangements and shall make appropriate provision for their support in retirement.

(5) Wherever possible lay persons appointed for service under clause (4) above shall for the duration of their service overseas transfer their membership to a Local Church in the place where they serve.

(6) Those appointed for service under clause (4) above serve at the invitation of and under the regulations and, subject to clause (7) below, the discipline of the church or agency concerned.

(7) The mutually agreed arrangements referred to in clause (4) above shall ensure that, in the event of disciplinary proceedings grave enough to call into question the status of

a minister or probationer or the membership or local preacher status of a lay person so appointed:

- (i) such status shall not be removed by any court overseas;
- (ii) the case shall, whether or not the appointment is terminated, be reported to the appropriate member of the Connexional Team who shall ensure that whatever further action is required by or appropriate under the Standing Orders of the relevant home conference is taken;
- (iii) for that purpose the membership of any lay person whose status may be in question shall, where necessary, be transferred to ~~his or her~~ **that person's** home church.

### 323 Local Ecumenical Development

[334] (1) The ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council, **on the nomination of the Mission Committee**, shall annually appoint representatives to the Methodist-Anglican Panel for Unity in Mission, or such successor ecumenical body as the council shall from time to time designate, to exercise the functions specified in this Standing Order. They shall include a member of the Connexional Team, designated as the ecumenical officer of the Methodist Church.

(2) The Methodist representatives to the Panel shall act on behalf of the ~~Methodist~~ council in performing the following functions:

- (i) keeping under review the development of local ecumenical relationships in Britain and advising the Connexional Team accordingly;
- (ii) providing guidelines for use of the Synods in establishing ecumenical partnerships in extended areas that do not require shared governance and in designating local ecumenical partnerships and other local schemes involving constitutions for shared churches, and monitoring their operation, and, through the ecumenical officer, receiving and scrutinising all proposals for new schemes;
- (iii) offering advice in new or difficult situations.

(3) By virtue of section 1, sub-sections (4) and (10), of the Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969, the consent of the ecumenical officer shall be required for the making or amendment of any sharing agreement under that Act or any legislation amending or replacing it. Where any such agreement requires consent to its termination to be given on behalf of the Church the ecumenical officer is authorised to give such consent.

(4) The ecumenical officer shall be responsible for providing information to the Conference and other bodies about ecumenical partnerships in extended areas that

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do not require shared governance and for the making of recommendations to the Conference on applications for the designation of ecumenical areas under schemes involving partnership at circuit level, and on proposals to give or revoke a direction under Standing Orders 512 and 611, as to all of which the ecumenical officer shall first obtain the report of the district Policy Committee.

(5) The ecumenical officer shall compile a list of all new schemes approved by the Synods under Standing Order 412(2) and of all sharing agreements authorised or signed by him or her **the said officer**, and ensure that they are reported to the Methodist Council.

**324 [1005] New Towns and New Areas** (1) In a new town or city officially designated as such by the appropriate government department or, at the request of the Chair or Chairs of the District or Districts concerned, in a new town not officially designated, or when an expansion scheme to house a population of 20,000 or more is planned by a local authority, the Methodist **Connexional** Council, **on the nomination of the Mission Committee**, may appoint a New Town or New Area Commission to encourage the Methodist Church towards policies of imaginative experiment and ecumenical co-operation and to reinforce all such sound planning and effective action as will build up the Church and extend its outreach into the life of the new communities.

(2) A commission shall include representatives of the Connexional Team and of the District or Districts and Circuit or Circuits concerned, as well as other persons with appropriate expertise, and its chair shall be the Chair or one of the Chairs of the District or Districts concerned.

(3) The commissions shall meet at least annually during the planning and major development phases of the new towns and new areas. They shall act as advisory committees to the Circuit Meetings, district committees and connexional bodies concerned.

(4) When the planning and major development phases in a new town or new area are completed the commission may resolve that the work of the Church there shall in future be under the supervision of the district Policy Committee for such time as the committee judges it necessary. While a new town or new area is under the supervision of the district Policy Committee it shall submit an annual report on its progress, approved by the district committee, together with complete copies of accounts to the Methodist Council

(5) A commission may be reconstituted at any time if the district Policy Committee considers it advisable.



### Section 33: The Church in Ministry and Mission: a Justice Seeking Church

**330 [336] Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.** (1) The Methodist Church seeks to become a church in which God's unconditional love is expressed in word and actions, and where all are fully able to play their part in the church's life. In working to achieve that aim it follows the principles of justice, dignity and solidarity, which require that:

- (i) diversity is reflected in all aspects of leadership in the church through the adoption of policies and procedures which avoid all unjust discrimination and enable all people to use their gifts in God's service through their service to the church;
- (ii) the church treats all people with respect, recognising them as made in the image of God and avoiding any form of conduct which might undermine their dignity and worth;
- (iii) the church is committed to the support of those who have suffered or may suffer any form of unjust discrimination and to standing in solidarity with them in asserting and maintaining their rights to be treated with justice and respect for their dignity.

(2) The Methodist **Connexional** Council, **on the nomination of the Mission Committee**, shall annually appoint a Justice, Dignity and Solidarity Committee, to discharge the following duties:

- (i) making strategic recommendations and giving support and guidance to the council in all matters relating to equality, diversity and inclusion;
- (ii) maintaining an overview of policies and procedures to ensure that matters of justice, dignity and solidarity are addressed;
- (iii) assisting the council in identifying and responding to emerging risks, challenges and opportunities in relation to matters of justice, dignity and solidarity;
- (iv) supporting the council in taking steps to implement any policies adopted by the Conference in relation to matters of justice, dignity and solidarity, and in promoting and embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across the Connexion;
- (v) nominating one of **either** the committee's co-chairs **or deputy chair** to act as adviser to the Conference on matters of justice, dignity and solidarity, ~~and the other co-chair may~~ **(the committee's deputy chair or chair, as the case may require, being able to** act as an alternate).

(3) The committee shall report annually to the Methodist Council.

(4) (a) The committee shall consist of;

- (i) ~~two co-chairs~~ **a chair and a deputy chair** appointed in accordance with sub-clause (c) below
- (ii) ~~two members~~ **one member** of the Methodist Council;
- (iii) up to eight other persons.

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(b) A member of the Connexional Team shall be the convener of the committee but not a voting member. Other members of the Connexional Team with responsibility for matters of equality, diversity and inclusion may attend committee meetings by invitation of the **chair or, when deputising for the chair, the deputy chair**, ~~co-chairs~~, and shall have a right to speak but not to vote.

(c) The ~~co-chairs~~ **chair and deputy chair** shall be appointed by the ~~Methodist Council~~ to serve for six years.

(d) The members of the committee shall not normally serve for more than six years in succession.

(5) The committee shall be responsible for making nominations to the council for persons to fulfil Standing Order 102(1)(~~i~~)(~~g~~)(**vii**).

### **331 [1004] Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice**

(1) The Conference has declared its commitment that the Methodist Church, in faithfulness to its missionary calling to evangelism, social caring and political justice, will strive to use its resources for all in society, recognising that this will mean especially taking sides with those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources, and has challenged the Methodist people to respond seriously and imaginatively to the issues raised by that commitment. To give expression to its commitment the Conference has instituted and continues Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice.

(2) The purposes of Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice are:

- (i) advocacy of the Church's commitment to those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources;
- (ii) assistance by way of grants for personnel or property schemes, primarily to Local Churches and Circuits, to assist them in supporting those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources.

(3) Grants from Methodist funds for Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice, whether for personnel or property schemes, must be wholly for a purpose or purposes of the Methodist Church, and shall meet the following criteria:

- (i) there must be evidence of insufficient resources to meet the material needs of individuals whether in an urban or a rural setting;
- (ii) there must be a commitment to work alongside those experiencing poverty and inequality of resources, thereby enabling them better to respond to their own sense of God's calling.

### Section 34: The Church in Ministry and Mission: Methodist Heritage

**340** [337] **Methodist Heritage Committee.** (1) The Methodist-**Connexional** Council shall annually appoint a Methodist Heritage Committee, to discharge the following responsibilities:

- (i) to protect, advocate and advance the interests of Methodist heritage throughout the Connexion;
  - (ii) to give directions that artefacts, publications and records which are model trust property and which the committee judges to be of historic significance to the Church and specifies for this purpose individually or by category shall not be sold, leased or otherwise disposed of or parted with except as provided by Standing Order 936, to establish and maintain a list of the property so specified, and to monitor and report to the council on compliance with any such directions and with Standing Order 936;
  - (iii) to formulate and keep under review a policy for the development and advancement of Methodist heritage, with a particular focus on the role of Methodist heritage as a tool for the contemporary mission aims of the Methodist Church;
  - (iv) to oversee all Methodist archives and other historical material and to advise managing trustees and others responsible for such material;
  - (v) to give general support to the development, interpretation and promotion of sites of historic importance to the Church;
  - (vi) to give support specifically to those which have been identified as being of particular significance to the wider Connexion, namely:
    - The Old Rectory, Epworth, Lincolnshire
    - The New Room (John Wesley's Chapel), Bristol
    - Wesley's Chapel, John Wesley's House and the Museum of Methodism, City Road, London
    - Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism;
  - (vii) to act as the Committee of the World Methodist Historical Society (British Section).
- (2) (a) The committee shall consist of:
- (i) the chair, appointed as such in accordance with sub-clause (b) below;
  - (ii) four trustee representatives, one each appointed by the respective trustee bodies of the sites referred to in clause (1)(vi) above;
  - (iii) the two liaison officers for Methodist archives and collections appointed under clause (4) below;
  - (iv) **a** ~~the~~ Connexional Secretary (or ~~his or her~~ **a** representative);

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- (v) up to 6 other persons chosen to ensure that the committee has expert knowledge, experience and skills recognised as desirable, in areas which may include:
- theology
  - historical research
  - archiving and record management
  - care and conservation of historical buildings, artefacts and records
  - heritage and museum work outside the Church
  - funding, fundraising and marketing
  - heritage tourism
  - the World Church
  - information technology in heritage and education contexts
  - education and lifelong learning
  - events and activity programming.

The Methodist heritage officer appointed under clause (3) below **member of the Connexional Team with responsibility for Methodist Heritage** shall be the convener of the committee but not a voting member.

(b) The chair shall be appointed by the Methodist council to serve for six years.

(c) The other members of the committee, except where appointed ex officio under head (iii) or (iv) of sub-clause (a), shall not normally serve for more than six years in succession.

(3) The Methodist Council shall also appoint a Methodist heritage officer, who shall be a member of the Connexional Team. The officer **Connexional Team member referred to in clause (2)(a) above** shall share with the Methodist Heritage Committee overall responsibility for the coordination of the Church's interest in and work relating to Methodist heritage and its links to the Church's contemporary mission aims.

(4) (a) The committee shall appoint a liaison officer for Methodist archives, who shall oversee, advise, support and connect the various bodies responsible for the production, supervision, deposit and safekeeping of Methodist archives, other historical material and modern records across the whole Connexion, and in particular the Connexional Team and District Archivists.

(b) The committee shall appoint a liaison officer for Methodist collections, who shall oversee, advise and support the various bodies responsible for the acquisition, disposal, interpretation and safekeeping of Methodist historical collections across the whole Connexion, and in particular the Connexional Team, the curators of the sites identified in Standing Order 340(1)(vi) and District Archivists.

(5) The committee shall also appoint a specialist group with expertise in the archiving of historical material and in modern records management to advise it upon the discharge of

its responsibilities under clause (1)(iv) above, and may appoint such other groups as are deemed appropriate to enable it generally to fulfil its responsibilities.

[221] **(6) (a) The committee shall be responsible, on behalf of the council as the connexional trustees, for appointing a group to oversee the affairs of the Aldersgate Memorial and such other assets and funds as are related to it. The members of the group (who need not be members of the committee) shall include the Superintendent of the City Road (Leysian Mission/Wesley's Chapel) Circuit and other persons with appropriate links with civic life, Methodist heritage and the London Committee.**

(b) The memorial and any related assets or funds shall, without restricting or excluding the provisions of the Model Trusts otherwise applicable, be held for the following connexional purposes:

- (i) the commemoration of the Aldersgate conversions of John and Charles Wesley in May 1738;
- (ii) the purposes of the Methodist Church with particular reference to the City of London.

**341 [332] Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall annually appoint as one of its committees a Listed Buildings Advisory Committee, which shall have the responsibilities and functions prescribed in Section 98.

(2) The committee shall be constituted in such a way as to have expert knowledge of historic church buildings, and shall consist of a convener, as specified in clause (3) below, together with not less than eight other persons chosen with the above object in view and having among them in particular:

- (i) knowledge of the history, development and use of Methodist chapels;
- (ii) knowledge of Methodist liturgy and worship;
- (iii) knowledge of archaeology;
- (iv) knowledge of the history and development of architecture and the visual arts; and
- (v) experience of the care of historic buildings and their contents.

(3) The convener shall be the Property Secretary.

As to the Property Secretary see S.O. 006(2A)

(4) The Connexional Team shall keep a register of all chapels, ancillary premises and manses which are listed buildings or in a conservation area, and shall supply to managing trustees, for inclusion in the relevant log books, to the appropriate bodies specified in Standing Order 930(5)(a), and to district archivists copies of the relevant parts of the register, giving them the necessary information and guidance to enable the

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significance of such listing to be taken into account whenever a scheme involving a listed building or property in a conservation area is under consideration.

### **Section 35 The Church in Ministry and Mission: Chaplaincy**

#### **350 [1006] Prison Chaplaincy**

(1) The Connexional Team shall have the oversight of all work done by persons appointed as chaplains in pastoral care of Methodist inmates of prisons and prison staff. Such chaplains shall send a report of their work to the Synod and to the Superintendent Chaplain of prisons, appointed by the Methodist Council.

(2) The Team shall be responsible for the nomination of prison chaplains. The Superintendent Chaplain of prisons shall consult with the Chair of the District in which a prison or young offenders institution is situated concerning a suitable nomination to be forwarded to the Prison Governor for appointment as Methodist chaplain.

(3) In the case of any presbyter to be appointed to full-time chaplaincy, the Superintendent Chaplain shall first secure the agreement of the Stationing Committee to the opening or continuation of a station for such an appointment, and after selection has been made by the appropriate authority shall forward the name of the person to be appointed to the Stationing Committee.

#### **351 [1008] Workplace Chaplains**

The Connexional Team member responsible for work relating to industry, business and commerce shall be responsible for securing the agreement of the Stationing Committee to the opening of stations for the appointment of workplace chaplains and for recommending to the committee the name of any presbyter or deacon to be appointed as such a chaplain. In the case of a deacon, any such recommendation shall be made after consultation with the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

### **Section 36 Resourcing the Church**

#### **360 Resourcing Committee: appointment**

In exercising its power of appointment of the Resourcing Committee under Standing Order 300, the Connexional Council shall ensure that the persons to be appointed shall cover the range of skills, experience and availability necessary to fulfil its responsibilities for the proper care and use of the Church's resources.

**361 Resourcing Committee: general responsibilities [213(2B)]** (1) The committee shall advise and assist the Connexional Council, *and where required act under delegated*

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**authority**, in fulfilling the council's responsibilities for the strategic oversight and use of resources with regard to personnel, finance and physical assets which are within the purview of the council.

(2) [213(2C)] It shall further advise and assist the Secretary of the Conference and the Connexional Secretary as they devise strategic policies for presentation to the council or the Conference.

### **362 Resourcing Committee: particular responsibilities**

(1) Without limiting the ambit of its general responsibilities as outlined in Standing Order 361, the committee's responsibilities shall include those listed below.

(2) [213(3)] The committee shall be responsible for **(i) the detailed examination of the accounts required by Standing Order 370 to be prepared** ~~financial statement required by Standing Order 360~~ and for recommending ~~its~~**their** adoption by the council; and

**(ii) the preparation of summary accounts to be presented for information to the Conference.**

(3) [213(4)] To enable the council to fulfil its responsibilities under Standing Order 204(1) and Section 37, the committee shall

(i) propose to the council, **for presentation to the Conference for its approval**, the budget **from the connexional funds** for expenditure upon the central services for which the council is responsible, together with a rationale for it in terms of the priorities and mission strategies of the Methodist Church, recommending the total amount required to be levied by the Conference for the next connexional year and the payments to be made from the fund, taking into account the priorities judged necessary by the council.

(ii) ~~propose to the council also the budgets for the other major connexional funds under its oversight.~~

(4) [213(4B)] The committee shall act to advise and enable the council to fulfil its legal duties and obligations as an employer. It shall have responsibility for all personnel matters for those with ~~Methodist Council~~ employment contracts, and shall act as the responsible body for implementing the Church's duty of care towards those ministers appointed to serve in appointments under the direction of the council and those ministers appointed as officers of the Conference and located in the Connexional Team.

**(5) The committee shall, on behalf of the council, oversee and administer the funds referred to in Section 37 below, and all other connexional funds of which the council is trustee.**

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(6) [212(3) and (4)] The committee shall make recommendations to the council, to be brought to the Conference, as to ministerial stipends and related matters. These shall include (but not be limited to) recommendations as to: minimum stipends to be paid to ministers and probationers; the amount of any additional allowances and initial payments; the level of travel expenses payable; financial arrangements for ministerial sabbaticals; expenses incurred and any additional allowances payable on removal between circuits.

(7) The committee shall be responsible for the administration on behalf of the council, of the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons.

(8) The committee shall produce guidance for ministers, probationers and students as to grants, loans and allowances available to them (particularly where stationed in one of the Island districts, the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of Wight, Malta or Gibraltar).

(9) The committee shall be responsible for making recommendations as to any other terms under which ministers and probationers serve within their covenant relationship with the Conference.

### **Section 37: Resourcing the Church: Finance**

**370** [360] **Accounts.** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall submit to the Conference annually a unified statement of connexional finances **ensure accounts are prepared**, clearly distinguishing between restricted and unrestricted funds and conforming to the law and accounting regulations, so as to give an overall view of those moneys and other assets for which the council is responsible.

(2) The general or other funds formerly administered by or in connection with a Division or connexional committee which ceased to exist on or before the 31st August 1996 and for which thereafter there are no separate trustees or other body with responsibility to administer the same and dispose of their assets shall be administered by the Methodist Council as restricted funds in accordance with clause (3) above.

**371** [361] **Methodist Church Fund.** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall **raise** administer **and as the trustee body be responsible for the administration of** the Methodist Church Fund.

(2) The fund shall be maintained by an assessment levied by the Conference on each Circuit in the home church through the several Districts, by contributions from Methodist colleges and schools and other organisations, by donations and legacies for the general purposes of the Methodist Church and by dividends and interest.



(3) Out of the fund shall be met:

- (i) the expenses necessary to give effect to the decisions of the Conference;
- (ii) the expenses of the President, Vice-President and Secretary of the Conference;
- (iii) costs incurred in guarding the rights and privileges of the Conference, so far as not chargeable to another fund;
- (iv) grants, not otherwise provided for, to Districts, Circuits and Local Churches;
- (v) grants in support of ecumenical work and dues and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies;
- (vi) payments in accordance with Standing Order 376;
- (vii) allocations or grants as required by Standing Order or determined by the Methodist Council for any connexional purpose;
- (viii) the cost of the work of the Connexional Team;
- (ix) all other connexional expenses not chargeable to other funds.

(4) Provision shall be made for grants from the fund to support Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice in accordance with Standing Order 331.

**372 [361A] Racial Justice.** (1) As part of the Church's witness to the gospel and in order to promote racial justice, provision shall be made from any appropriate funds for grants to Methodist and ecumenical bodies and projects and to other organisations (whether local or national) in order to support work against discrimination and marginalisation on racial grounds.

(2) To the extent that the trusts affecting the funds referred to in clause (1) above so require, grants may be made only to bodies having charitable status.

**373 [362] Specified Funds.** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall raise and administer **and, as the trustee body, be responsible for the administration of** the four restricted funds specified in clauses (2) to (5) below, for which contributions, including public collections, subscriptions, donations and legacies, shall be invited for particular aspects of the work of the Church.

(2) **(a)** The purposes of the Methodist World Mission Fund shall be:

- (i) to promote and encourage Christian mission overseas;
- (ii) to encourage the establishment of churches overseas which will themselves undertake that mission within and beyond their own borders;
- (iii) to engage in relationships of mutual help and enrichment with churches and ecumenical bodies overseas;
- (iv) to foster and take part in ecumenical relationships in the field of world mission, including the work of the World Council of Churches;
- (v) in furtherance of these purposes to engage in education, advocacy, recruitment and fundraising.

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**(b)** In the allocation of grants from the World Mission Fund the council shall **work through** the World Mission Fund Grants Committee appointed under Standing Order 322(2) above to have responsibility, through the Global Relationships Committee, to the council for the administration of the grants so allocated, in line with the policy adopted by the Connexional Council in relation to such grants.

(3) The purposes of the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund shall be

- (i) the support of work in furtherance of the Church's mission, including grants to Local Churches and Circuits, in the home Districts. Provision shall be made for grants to support Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice in accordance with Standing Order 331; and
- (ii) to bear witness to the global character of Christian mission by supporting work with and among ethnically diverse communities in Britain and Ireland which have their origin in other countries.

(4) The purposes of the Methodist Fund for Training shall be:

- (i) the provision of initial and further training for presbyters, deacons, lay employees and other lay persons;
- (ii) the provision of maintenance grants for persons undergoing such training and their dependants;
- (iii) the improvement and maintenance of trust property, management and staffing of the Methodist training institutions;
- (iv) contributing to the improvement and maintenance of property, management and staffing of joint theological colleges;
- (v) the examination of candidates for the presbyterate and the diaconate and of presbyteral and diaconal probationers.

(5) (a) The purposes of the Methodist Fund for Property shall be:

- (i) the support of work in aid or on behalf of trustees of Methodist property;
- (ii) grants and loans for property purposes to trustees of Methodist property in the home Districts.

(b) Subject to sub-clause (a) above provision shall be made for grants to support Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice in accordance with Standing Order 331.

(6) The income of Junior Mission for All shall be allocated as to four fifths to the Methodist World Mission Fund and as to one fifth to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund.

**374 [363] London Mission Fund.** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall raise and administer **and as trustees be responsible for the administration of** the London Mission Fund as a restricted fund and shall appoint trustees of the fund **a committee**, to be known as the London Committee, **which may act on its behalf** for that purpose.

In making the appointments, the council shall ensure that the area of each of the four former London Districts is fairly represented.

(2) There shall be advocacy of the fund in each Circuit within the area of the former four London Districts and in such chapels and preaching-places as have been assisted by the fund.

(3) Income shall be solicited by way of donations and subscriptions.

(4) The consent of the trustees shall be obtained to the erection of any buildings or the purchase of any site for which aid is sought from the fund.

(5) No help from the fund shall be given to Circuits which neglect to comply with the foregoing requirements.

(6) Provision shall be made for grants from the fund to support Methodist Action on Poverty and Justice in accordance with Standing Order 331.

(7) This Standing Order does not apply to the Malta United Area or to the Gibraltar Circuit, which are not eligible for any grant from the London Mission Fund.

(8) In this Standing Order 'the four former London Districts' means the London North-East District, the London North-West District, the London South-West District and the London South-East District as those Districts were constituted immediately prior to 1st September 2006.

**375 [364] Other Restricted Funds.** (1) The Methodist **Connexional** Council shall raise and administer **and as trustees be responsible for the administration of** the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons, the objects of which shall be to provide assistance at the discretion of the council, or of any committee or officer to whom it may delegate its powers in this behalf, to **the persons listed below:**

- (i) supernumeraries;
- (ii) persons who have been permitted or directed to become supernumerary;
- (iii) ministers in the active work or without appointment, persons recognised and regarded as ministers by virtue of clauses 43 to 45A of the Deed of Union, probationers and student ministers who, in any such case, are in acute financial need;
- (iv) ministers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment or the illness or impairment of any member of their immediate household, for the purpose of enabling them to continue in or resume the active work;
- (v) probationers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment or the illness or impairment of any member of their immediate household, for the purpose of enabling them to continue on or resume probation or to complete probation and enter the active work;

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- (vi) student ministers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment, or the illness or impairment of any member of their immediate household, for the purpose of enabling them to continue their ministerial formation and training; and
- (vii) the spouses or civil partners of deceased ministers and probationers and other members of their immediate households who, in any such case, are in need; **and to make such grants or payments as appear in clauses (2) and (3).**

(2) **It shall be an object of the fund** to make grants to the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society.

**(3) The objects of the fund shall further include making the following payments:**

- (i) payments to circuits seeking reimbursement from connexional funds of payments made by them under the provisions of clauses (1) or (4) of Standing Order 376;**
- (ii) payments to the relevant person or persons under clause (3) of Standing Order 376.**

(4) The council shall administer the sabbatical fund which shall be raised by means of an annual levy on each Circuit or other body responsible for payment of the stipend of any presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion appointed to a station within the control of the Church. The amount of the levy shall be that from time to time prescribed by the Conference.

(5) In pursuance of its powers under the Deed Poll dated the 5th June 1882 establishing the Necessitous Local Preachers Fund the Conference directs the trustees of that fund to pay the income of the fund to the Methodist Council to be applied according to the trusts of the above Deed. The council shall have power to delegate to any two or more persons, whether or not members or a committee of the council, decisions as to the application or distribution of such income according to the said trusts.

**376 [365] Reimbursements and other Special Payments** (1) If at any time (subject to clause (2) below) a circuit minister or probationer has by reason of illness or injury been unable for a total of 26 weeks during the preceding 24 months to discharge the responsibilities of his or her **the** appointment **to which the minister or probationer is stationed** any Circuit involved shall on application be reimbursed out of **connexional funds** ~~the Methodist Church Fund~~ for all sums (less the credit for Social Security benefits and statutory sickness pay) paid by the Circuit to that person under Standing Order 801(4) in respect of any continued or further periods of incapacity during the next twelve months (any such twelve months being referred to in clause (2) below as an 'eligible year').

(2) (a) In calculating the total of 26 weeks referred to in clause (1) above there shall be disregarded:

- (i) individual periods of incapacity of four weeks or less each;
- (ii) after the occurrence of an eligible year, any incapacity occurring before or during that year.

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(b) The fund shall not in any event be liable to reimburse the same Circuit in respect of any payments made to the same minister or probationer for the next twelve months following an eligible year.

(3) If a circuit minister or probationer dies after the end of February in any connexional year leaving a spouse or civil partner and/or dependants entitled under Standing Order 801(5)(a) to remain in the manse until the end of that connexional year a sum shall be paid out of the ~~Methodist Church Fund~~ **connexional funds** to that spouse or civil partner and/or dependants equal to rent at the rate then currently charged by the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society for the period from the end of that connexional year until the date six months after the death.

(4) Any Circuit involved shall on application be reimbursed out of the ~~Methodist Church Fund~~ **connexional funds** for all sums (less the credit for Social Security benefits) paid by the Circuit to a circuit minister or probationer under Standing Orders 807A(5)(a), 807B(4) and 807C(5).

(5) Payment shall be made out of the ~~Methodist Church Fund~~ **connexional funds** of all sums required to be so paid:

- (i) to any person by virtue of any Standing Order relating to disciplinary proceedings or of any direction given by a competent body and authorised by any such Standing Order;
- (ii) as determined under Standing Order 774(9) by the Stationing Committee or the President or Vice-President, in respect of any minister or probationer for whom no appointment can be found; and
- (iii) as determined by a district Consultative Committee under Standing Order 040(8) or by a connexional Pastoral Committee under Standing Order 042(5).

(6) Payment may also be made out of the ~~fund~~ **such funds** at the discretion of the council or of any committee or officer to which the council may delegate this discretion:

- (i) to reimburse any person or body for or discharge any payments, expenses or liabilities incurred or arising in connection with any actual or potential disciplinary proceedings against any person, whether or not a charge is brought, or in connection with any other case involving financial irregularity or improvidence on the part of a minister or probationer or where an application is made under Standing Order 013(11); or
- (ii) in accordance with any recommendation of the Stationing Advisory Committee or the connexional Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee under Standing Order 774(6); or
- (iii) in accordance with any recommendation of an advisory committee under Standing Order 042(6).

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**377** [367] All accounts submitted to the Conference shall, except by approval of the Conference, be closed for each year on the 31st August.

**378** [368] **Central Finance Board.** Pursuant to section 5(3) of the Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 the Conference:

(f)authorises the ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council and connexional committees to seek the advice of the Central Finance Board as to investments and empowers that board to give such advice to them and to any other body administering any funds or finances of the Church or any part of the Church or any charity connected with the work of the Church.; and

(ii)appoints the said board to act, for so long as is required by the Methodist Council, as the covenantee for the purpose of the scheme specified in Standing Order 212(13).

### **Section 38 The Connexional Team**

**380** [302] **The Connexional Team.** (1) There shall be a Connexional Team whose members work collaboratively to provide a ~~coherent~~ **efficient** and effective service on behalf of the Conference **and the Connexional Council.**

(2) The work of the Connexional Team, the assignment of particular tasks and the co-ordination of the work shall be supervised by the ~~Methodist Council through its Strategy and Resources Committee.~~

(3) The Connexional Team shall consist of:

- (i) the ~~Secretaries~~ **Connexional Secretary** as defined in Standing Order 383, who shall work under the direction of the Secretary of the Conference;
- (ii) all other ministers appointed under Standing Order 385 or stationed under Standing Order 387 to work as members of the Team;
- (iii) all other persons employed by the ~~Methodist Council~~ to work as members of the Team;
- (iv) all other persons specified in Standing Orders as members of the Team.

**381** [303] **Purposes of the Connexional Team.** (1) The overall task of the Connexional Team is to assist the Church in furthering the purposes of the Methodist Church, in particular enabling it better to fulfil its calling of responding to God's love in Christ and working out its discipleship in mission and worship.

(2) The Team is charged with providing appropriate support for Local Churches, Circuits and Districts as they work to fulfil the purposes of the Methodist Church. Such support shall include acting on their behalf or offering them such services and resources as the Team can **efficiently and effectively** ~~uniquely or best~~ provide. In providing such

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support the Team shall act in accordance with Standing Orders and any directions of the Conference given from time to time.

(3) The Team is authorised to act on behalf of the Church in relation to national institutions and public issues in harmony with the existing statements and resolutions of the Conference.

(4) The Team is responsible for assisting the Methodist Council in considering future policies.

(5) The Team shall have particular responsibility for the areas of work which are prescribed in the Deed of Union or specified in Standing Orders, or approved from time to time by the Conference and the Methodist Council.

### **382 [305] and [329] Other Specific responsibilities**

(1) The Connexional Team is authorised by the Conference, as occasion may require, to obtain from Chairs and Superintendents such statistical returns and other information as are necessary for the business of the Team and Chairs and Superintendents shall furnish all such information in due form.

(2) The Team shall prepare every three years a report on the membership returns for presentation to the Conference in the Presbyteral and Representative Sessions. The Conference, on the advice of the Methodist **Connexional** Council, shall determine the frequency of the collection of the membership returns.

(3) The Team shall keep under review all arrangements for the employment of lay persons in the light of developments in employment law and good employment practice.

(4) The Team shall provide standard terms and conditions for contracts of employment within Standing Order 438A, standard conditions of occupancy and such other guidance as may from time to time be required, including any special terms and conditions to be included in contracts of employment of workers under Standing Order 570.

### **383 [304] The Connexional Secretarys and the Senior Management Group of the Connexional Team.**

(1) The Connexional Team shall include a Connexional **Secretarys**, appointed to that office, who shall assist the Secretary of the Conference in the execution of his or her **the** overall responsibilities **of the Secretary of the Conference**. Under his or her **the** direction **of the Secretary of the Conference** they **the Connexional Secretary** shall have responsibility, together with the other members of the senior management group defined in clause (2) below, for the work of the Team and ensure that it is effectively carried out, in accordance with the Deed of Union, Standing Orders and the directions from time to time of the Methodist Conference and the Methodist **Connexional** Council, and, with the wider senior leadership of the Church, shall support

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him or her **the Secretary of the Conference** in leading the development of the Church's vision of unity, mission, evangelism and worship. They are **The Connexional Secretary** is authorised when so required to act as his or her **the representative of the Secretary of the Conference. The Connexional Secretary is further authorised to delegate from time to time the performance of such of the functions of the office, including attendance and (where the Connexional Secretary has the right to vote) voting at meetings, to such person or persons as are appropriate to the particular function concerned, but without derogation from the ultimate responsibility of the Connexional Secretary for the proper performance of the duties of the office.**

(4) The number of Connexional Secretaries shall be determined from time to time by the Conference, which may determine that there shall be a single Connexional Secretary.

(2) The senior management group of the Connexional Team shall consist of the Secretary of the Conference, the assistant secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Secretaries, and such other members of the Connexional Team as the **council Strategy and Resources Committee** shall approve.

### **384 [312] Contracts of Employment of Connexional Team members and tutors.**

(1) This Standing Order applies to the engagement for remuneration of any person within either of the categories specified in clause (2) below to serve in a post which is within the Connexional Team, or as a tutor in a theological college.

(2) The categories referred to in clause (1) above are:

- (i) ministers and deacons of other churches (whether or not recognised and regarded as presbyters or deacons of the Methodist Church under clause 44, 45 or 45A of the Deed of Union), other than ministers of the Irish Conference; and
- (ii) all other persons not within Standing Order 385 or 387.

(3) In every such case there shall be a contract of employment in writing between the ~~Methodist Council~~ and the employee, complying with the law and with Standing Order 386 where applicable, and containing such other provisions as the council considers proper.

**385 [313] Ministerial Designations and Appointments by the Conference.** (1) When it is proposed to appoint or re-appoint a presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion, minister of the Irish Conference or probationer to serve, full time or part time, as ~~a~~ **the Connexional Secretary or secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, the Methodist Connexional Council** shall submit a nomination for that office to the Conference, accompanied by a reasoned statement indicating the qualifications of the person nominated. The nomination shall be printed in the Agenda if possible, or failing that shall be circulated



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at or before the opening of the Representative Session, and no other names may be brought to that Conference.

(2) For designation to a new appointment, which shall in the first instance be for a specified period not exceeding six years, the nomination by the council and the designation by the Conference shall each require a simple majority of those present and voting.

(3) For designation to a re-appointment, which shall be for a specified period not exceeding five years, the nomination by the council and designation by the Conference shall each require a 75% majority of those present and voting. The council shall vote by ballot.

(4) A designation under the provisions of this Standing Order is a statement by the Conference of its intention that, if later Conferences concur, a presbyter or deacon be appointed to the office concerned:

- (i) with effect from the beginning of the connexional year after the year immediately following the designation, unless the resolution of designation otherwise provides; and
- (ii) annually for the period of designation, but subject always to the provisions of clause (8) below.

(5) Where the majority required under clause (2) or (3) (as the case may be) is not obtained in the Conference, the Conference shall determine its own procedure, which may include requiring the council to submit a new nomination to the following Conference, and shall include appropriate arrangements for ensuring the performance of the duties of the office until an appointment is made (whether after designation under this Standing Order or by the procedure specified).

(6) When new appointments or re-appointments are under consideration in the council they shall be discussed in the absence of the persons concerned.

(7) The council shall complete its work as early in the connexional year as possible and shall notify the Circuit or other authority responsible for the person's current station that the designation is to be proposed.

(8) When it is proposed to nominate a deacon or diaconal probationer for an appointment under this Standing Order the ~~Methodist~~ Council shall consult the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order, before submitting the name to the Conference.

(9) Appointments to be made pursuant to designations under this Standing Order shall be included in the stations and nothing in this Standing Order shall derogate from the ultimate authority of the Conference over stationing annually.

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**386 [314] Other Appointments authorised by the Conference.** (1) This Standing Order applies to the appointment of a person within either of the categories specified in clause (2) of Standing Order 384 as ~~a~~ **the** Connexional Secretary or as secretary of the Faith and Order Committee.

(2) The provisions of Standing Order 384 shall apply to all appointments under this Standing Order.

(3) Subject to clause (7) below the appointment by the ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council of ~~a~~ **the** Connexional Secretary or the Conference officer for legal and constitutional practice requires the prior authority of a resolution of the Conference on the recommendation of the council, specifying the name of the appointee, the date upon which the appointment is to take effect and the period (if any is to be fixed) for which it will continue unless earlier terminated under any contractual provision in that regard.

(4) The provisions of clause (3) above apply also to the appointment of the secretary of the Faith and Order Committee, with the omission of the word 'prior', but any such appointment made, and any related contract of employment entered into by the ~~Methodist~~ **C** council before obtaining the authority of the Conference, shall be expressly conditional upon obtaining such authority at the next annual meeting of the Conference and shall be void if such authority is declined.

(5) The Conference shall not authorise the making of an appointment under this Standing Order except upon the recommendation of the ~~Methodist~~ **C** council, and no further names may be added in nomination, by Notice of Motion or otherwise, or considered.

(6) If an appointment is terminated for any reason before the end of the period (if any) specified in the resolution of authority or otherwise than by notice given by either party the ~~Methodist~~ **C** council shall report the event in appropriate terms to the next meeting of the Conference.

(7) If because of the termination of the appointment of ~~a~~ **the** Connexional Secretary for any reason it is not practicable to comply fully with the requirements of clause (3) above ~~Methodist~~ **C** council shall nevertheless have power to appoint a **replacement** Connexional Secretary despite such non-compliance. In that event as many of the provisions of clause (3) above shall be implemented as is practicable.

**387 [315] Other Ministerial Staff Appointments.** (1) The ~~Methodist~~ **Connexional** Council may recommend that a presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion, minister of the Irish Conference or probationer be stationed to serve, full-time or part-time, in the Connexional Team in an appointment other than those within Standing Order 114,

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116A, 116C or 385, or as a member of staff in a training institution or other body within the control of the Methodist C council or (if a deacon in Full Connexion) as the deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order. Such a recommendation shall be for an initial specified period not exceeding six years. The appointment shall be included in the stations in the same way as an appointment to a Circuit and no separate resolution of appointment by the Conference shall be required.

(2) The council may recommend a re-appointment for one or more further specified periods, each not exceeding five years. Such a recommendation shall be determined as soon as possible in the final year of the current period and shall require the votes of not less than 75% of those present and voting.

(3) Nothing in this Standing Order shall derogate from the ultimate authority of the Conference over stationing annually.

**388 [316] Curtailment.** (1) This Standing Order shall apply whenever it is desired on either side to curtail the period of:

- (i) designation or recommendation of a minister for appointment to a station under Standing Order 116A, 116C, 385 or 387 or
- (ii) ~~appointment of a person to an office under Standing Order 210(1)(i), 213(1)(i), 311 or 322(1A);~~

and the person appointed and the body designated in the relevant Standing Orders as being responsible for making, recommending or nominating to the appointment are unable to agree or when a connexional complaints team appointed under Standing Order 1122 considers that the question whether such a period should be curtailed should be examined. When requested to do so by the person appointed or by the officer specified in clause (2) below or by a team so appointed the President or the Vice-President on ~~his or her~~ **the President's** behalf shall appoint a curtailment committee to consider the matter. The committee shall consist of the President or ~~his or her~~ **the President's** representative, who shall preside, and six other **persons chosen by the President from the panel appointed under Standing Order 291.** ~~members of the Methodist Council or, where the matter relates to an appointment under Standing Order 210(1)(i), six members of the Strategy and Resources Committee who are not members of the council.~~ The committee's judgment shall be reported to the body responsible for the appointment and as further required in clause (3) below.

(2) Clause (8) of Standing Order 544 shall apply to the constitution of the curtailment committee appointed under clause (1) above, and clause (10) of that Standing Order to its procedure, in each case with any necessary adaptations.

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(3) The officer referred to in clause (1) above shall be:

- (i) in the case of the assistant secretary of the Conference, the Conference officer for legal and constitutional practice or ~~a~~ **the** Connexional Secretary, the Secretary **of the Conference**;
- (ii) ~~in the case of the connexional Treasurer, the chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Methodist Council;~~
- (iii) ~~in the case of the chair of the Methodist Council or chair of the Stationing Committee, the Secretary;~~
- (iv) ~~[deleted]~~
- (ivA) ~~in the case of the chair or an appointed member of the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Methodist Council, the Vice-President of the Conference;~~
- (ii) in all other cases, the Connexional Secretary responsible for the oversight of the appointee.

(4) In the case of a minister appointed to a station, the judgment of the curtailment committee shall be reported to the Stationing Committee, and in the case of a diaconal appointment also to the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order. In the case of such an appointment under Standing Order 116A, 116C or 385 a report shall also be made by the curtailment committee in appropriate terms to the Conference. ~~In the case of an appointment under Standing Order 210(1)(i), 213(1)(i), 311 or 322(1A) a report shall be made by the committee in appropriate terms to the Conference and the Conference shall have power to curtail any such appointment if and to the extent that the report so recommends.~~

(5) Nothing in this Standing Order shall derogate from the ultimate authority of the Conference over stationing annually.

### APPENDIX B

#### **PART 1: Replacement of Methodist Council, and related bodies, by Connexional Council or Council's main committees, and associated amendments**

##### a) Replacements

1. Replace "Methodist Council" by "Connexional Council" in the following Standing Orders:

006(2A)  
010(3)(vi)  
012(6)  
113(1)

126(1)(c)  
129(1)  
131(11)(iii); (17)(a)(i)  
133(4)  
136(2C)  
138(8)  
401(2)  
428(1A); (2)  
431(v)  
438A(3)(v)  
544(3)  
690(2)(a)  
744(12)  
755(1)  
804(2)  
808  
909  
913(2); (3)(d)  
917(4)  
930(5)(a)  
930(7)  
931(3)(a)  
935(1)  
943(3)  
973(1A); (5)  
983A(12)  
985(4)  
1152(1)

2. Replace “Methodist Council” by “Secretary of the Conference” in the following Standing Orders:

105(1A)  
106(2); (3)(b); (4); 107(2);(3) adding in each instance “after consultation with the Ecumenical Officer”  
116B  
124(11)  
136(1)(i)  
136(1C) adding “after consultation with the President-designate and Vice-President-designate”  
139  
140(4)  
150(2)(ii)

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3. Replace "Methodist Council" by "Conference Business Committee" in the following Standing Order:

016A(3A)

4. Replace "Methodist Council" by "Ministries Committee" in the following Standing Orders

564A(3)

564C(3)

565(1)

565A(1)

565B

566(1)

566A(1)

566B(1)(ii)

680(1)(ii)

715(1); (2)

716(2)

728(7)

728A(7)

730(12)

730(13)(a)

5. Replace "Methodist Council" by "Mission Committee" in the following Standing Order:

440(1)(a);(b);(7)

6. Replace "Methodist Council" by "Resourcing Committee" in the following Standing Orders:

445

803(1)(c)

803(6)

7. Replace "Strategy and Resources Committee" by "Resourcing Committee" in the following Standing Order:

138(2)(vii)

8. Replace “Connexional Allowances Committee” by “Resourcing Committee” in the following Standing Orders:

528(1); (2A)  
782(2)  
783(4)  
801(1)(b)  
801(6)(a) and (c)

b) Other amendments related to these changes

### **002(1) Terms defined in the Deed of Union**

Insert as new item (viiiA) ‘the Connexional Council’, and renumber the following two items as (viiiB) and (viiiC).

### **128 Extent of Legislation**

Delete second sentence.

### **137 Committees of Reference**

The Methodist Council **President, Vice-President and Secretary** shall annually approve **compile and circulate to the Conference** a list of the names of persons, all of whom are expected to be members of the ensuing Conference, who may be appointed to serve on Committees of Reference in accordance with clause (4) below. The list shall include, and identify as such, the names of an appropriate number of persons who may act as conveners.

### **402 District Committees**

(1) ... In addition to the Chair of the District and the secretary of the Synod ~~and any member of the Methodist Council nominated by the Synod, ...~~

### **410 Constitution [of the Synod]**

(1) (vii) ~~the lay representatives, if appointed, of the Synod to the Methodist Council, the district lay Stationing Representative....~~

### **418 Connexional Bodies**

Delete the whole Standing Order.

### **435 Nominations**

Delete clause (3).

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### **565 Training Programmes [for Local Preachers]**

(2) The council **committee** may delegate ...

### **565A Validation of Training Programmes**

(3)(i) the training programme meets the council's **committee's** training specification, and

(ii) ... to ensure it continues to meet the council's **committee's** training specification.

(4) ... that the council's **committee's** training specification is not being met....

(5) ... shall pay to the council the prescribed fee.

### **722 Pre-ordination Training**

(1) ... in accordance with connexional guidelines by the **Ministries Committee** body appointed to do so by the Methodist Council.

### **744 Sabbaticals**

(7) ... Where there is a dispute it shall be considered and determined by the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee** or by a committee **group** appointed by the council **committee** for the purpose.

### **971 The [Connexional Priority Fund] Committee**

Delete the Standing Order.

### **974**

(1)(i) ...being determined by the Strategy and Resources Committee **Connexional Council**;

(3) All grants shall be at the discretion of the committee **council**.

### **Section 99 Property Development Committee**

Delete the whole section

### **1104(4A) Record-keeping, Confidentiality and Related Matters**

... shall be in accordance with guidance adopted by the Methodist Council **Conference**

**PART 2 Other amendments required to reflect what the Conference has decided, or related to changes being brought in this report, grouped as far as possible by subject matter**

#### **1. The removal of the role of Connexional Treasurer**

**136 (1)** " ... and the connexional Treasurer and the connexional Press Officer shall attend as consultants when required"



### 140(2)

head (vii): the Connexional Treasurer a **Connexional Team member responsible for connexional financial matters**

### 2. Connexional Secretary reduced to single role

#### 114(1E)

"The Secretary may delegate to the assistant secretary, or any of the Connexional **Secretary Secretaries**..."

#### 806(4)(viii)

(e) "... in the case of any other person who is a member of the Connexional Team, the Connexional Secretary responsible for the oversight of the appointee ..."

### **3. Amendments redistributing the provisions in the previous Section 20**

*Note: this Section, "General Provisions", contained some matters which are more appropriately dealt with in Part 1 of Standing Orders as relating to the Conference, and so it is proposed that they are moved into that Part, with any necessary amendments indicated in the usual way. Other provisions in Section 20 no longer need to be provided for in Standing Orders, and therefore they will be deleted if the Conference adopts the resolution to replace the whole of the current Part 2 by the new Part 2.*

**200** Renumber as 110(3A) and amend as follows:

**Chairing of Committees.** Except where Standing Orders otherwise provide, the President and Vice-President of the Conference have the right to chair **particular meetings or items of business at meetings of all committees or bodies constituted by the Conference, other than the Connexional Council**, of which they are, ex officio, voting members **where after consultation with the duly appointed officers of the committee or body concerned the President and Vice-President deem it appropriate.** and **If** both are present they shall determine which of them shall exercise the right.

**202** Renumber as 192, as part of a new Section 19 entitled "Appointments by the Conference and Other Bodies", and amend as follows:

**Expenses and Loss of Earnings.** (1) This Standing Order applies to the Conference, the Methodist **Connexional** Council, and all boards and committees appointed by the Conference **or Connexional Council** (in this Standing Order called 'parent bodies') and to all subordinate committees, sub-committees and working parties appointed by or on the authority of a parent body.

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(2) All sums payable under this Standing Order shall be paid out of the funds administered by the relevant body, or if none out of the Methodist Church Fund.

(3) The expenses of the members of all bodies to which this Standing Order applies (including sums necessarily paid to carers), incurred in attending the meetings or doing the work of the relevant body, shall be reimbursed, if desired.

(4) A loss of earnings allowance shall be paid, if desired, in accordance with clauses (5) and (6) below, to all members of the Conference, the **Methodist Connexional** Council and any other bodies to which this Standing Order applies and which are specified for this purpose under clause (7) below.

(5) The amount of any such allowance shall be the amount of the loss of earnings actually sustained by attending a meeting of the relevant body, or the maximum determined under clause (6) below, whichever is the less.

(6) The **Methodist Connexional** Council shall determine annually for the next connexional year the maximum daily allowance for loss of earnings.

(7) Each parent body shall specify annually for the next connexional year which bodies, if any, from among that parent body and its subordinate bodies, shall qualify for loss of earnings allowances.

**203, 204 and 206** Renumber and amend the clauses which are proposed to remain as follows:

**190 Nominations to the Conference for appointment** (1) This Standing Order relates to all bodies appointed by the Conference, subject to any contrary legal requirement **or to any provision in the Standing Order specifically dealing with the appointment of the relevant body.**

(2) In appointments for which nominations are brought ~~either~~ by the bodies themselves ~~or by Synods~~ no person may be so nominated to the same body in the same category for more than six years in succession, except by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting in the nominating body on a ballot vote taken after all proposals for nomination have been made, those for re-nomination containing a record of attendances and the special reason for re-nomination.

(3) Where nominations are made by the bodies themselves consideration shall be given to the composition of the body as a whole with regard to the age, sex, and ethnic origin of its members, and (subject to Standing Order 010) the diversity of experience and opinion in the church, including minority views.

(4) The secretaries or conveners of committees appointed by the Conference shall supply to the Secretary of the Conference, for inclusion in the Conference Agenda, lists of the names, including one Christian name, of each person nominated, distinguishing those proposed for re-appointment and those proposed for the first time.

(5) (a) All new nominations for committees, commissions or other bodies appointed by the Conference shall be supported by ~~brief particulars (up to fifteen words)~~ of **a reasoned statement (up to 25 words)** about the nominee.

(b) These ~~particulars~~ **statements** shall, unless printed in the Conference Agenda or otherwise officially circulated to the Conference, be displayed by notice in the Conference hall.

**207 Special Days** Renumber as 129B and amend as follows:

The Methodist **Connexional** Council, **in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee**, may **propose** ~~recommend~~ to the Conference the observance by the Church of special days for prayer and the consideration of particular concerns.

**208** Renumber as 191 and amend as follows:

**Commencement Date for Appointments.**

All appointments made by the Conference or the Methodist **Connexional** Council shall, ...

#### **4. Memorials Committee**

*[As the constitution of the committee is generally expressed now in terms of office-holders and representatives of other bodies, there would appear to be no need for its actual appointment as SO 138 currently provides. The following changes are therefore proposed.]*

**138** (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a committee to **The Memorials Committee, constituted in accordance with clauses (2) to (4) below, shall** consider all memorials from Synods and Circuit Meetings and make a recommendation on each to the Conference.

(2) ... (vii) a member of the Strategy and Resources Committee **a member of the Resourcing Committee**

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### **5. The relationship between the Methodist Diaconal Order and the Connexional Council**

#### **753(2)**

In addition to sessions for devotion, study and fellowship, the agenda of the Convocation shall include:

- (i) nomination to the Conference of a representative of the Order to the Methodist Council;
- (ii) recommendations, if any, to the Methodist **Connexional** Council;
- ....

**754(1B)** The procedure for the appointment of the Warden shall be determined by the **Conference on the recommendation of the Ministries Committee.**

**755(1)** The Conference shall each year appoint the Methodist Diaconal Order Support and Advisory Group upon nominations from the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee**

- (3) (ii) oversee any such arrangements as from time to time may be required for consulting the Methodist Diaconal **Order on matters referred to it by the Conference or the Council-Ministries Committee.**

### **6. Provisions where hitherto the Methodist Council (or a group drawn from it) has determined various matters**

#### **011(3) Authorisations to Preside at the Lord's Supper**

All such applications shall be sent .... to the convener of an Authorisations Committee appointed for the purpose by the Methodist Council **Conference on the nomination of the Ministries Committee** .... Appeals against the committee's recommendations shall be heard by a further committee appointed for the purpose from among the members of the next Conference by the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee.**

#### **013(12)**

(ii) in relation to the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretary-Elect of the Conference the functions of the Pastoral Committee [*to deal with certain matters of suspension*] shall be discharged by a panel appointed for that purpose from among the members of the Strategy and Resources Committee by the convener of connexional Pastoral Committee. **review group of three persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel.**

[*Note: the changes proposed for the following Standing Order include all those necessary to change the language of the whole Standing Order to become gender-neutral, including in clauses not otherwise amended.*]

**013A(1)(i)** [*Decision about the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretary-Elect being incapable of acting or unfit to act*] any issue ... shall be determined by the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Methodist Council, **a group of five persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel, the group being called** in this clause called 'the committee';

(ii) if the responsible officer believes that the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretary-Elect of the Conference is so incapable or unfit, ~~he or she~~ **the officer** shall refer the matter to the committee;

(iii) any two persons, being ministers or members, may request the responsible officer in writing to exercise his or her the powers under **given by** (ii) above and, if dissatisfied with the response, may refer the matter to the committee;

(iv) [*Appeal from that decision to the Methodist Council*] the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretary-Elect may appeal to the Methodist Council against any decision **finding** by the committee **of incapacity or unfitness to act**. that he or she is incapable of acting or unfit to act. **The appeal shall be dealt with by a group of at least three persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Orders 291 by a convener of that panel, being persons who were not involved in the determination under head (i) above.**

(v) ... the committee or **the appeal group constituted under (iv) above** the council, as the case may be, shall ensure that the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Secretary-Elect, as the case may be, is informed of, and has an adequate opportunity to deal with, the reasons why it is alleged that he or she is incapable of acting or unfit to act **for the allegation of incapacity or unfitness to act, ...**

(vi) the committee to fill a casual vacancy not otherwise filled [*i.e. as to one of the officers named above*] shall be the Methodist Council **a group constituted as in head (i) above.**

(2) For the purposes of clause 42(c) and (d) of the Deed of Union:

- (i) any issue whether a Chair is incapable of acting or unfit to act on grounds not apt to be the subject of a charge within Part 11 shall be determined by the Pastoral Committee, as defined in Standing Order 013(2)(iii);
- (ii) if the responsible officer believes that a Chair is so incapable or unfit ~~he or she~~ **the officer** shall refer the matter to the Pastoral Committee;
- (iii) any two persons, being ministers or members, may request the responsible officer in writing to exercise his or her **the** powers under **given by** (ii) above and, if dissatisfied with the response, may refer the matter to the Pastoral Committee;
- (iv) on any reference to the Pastoral Committee under (ii) or (iii) above it shall ensure that the Chair is informed of, and has an adequate opportunity to deal with, the reasons why it is alleged that he or she is incapable of acting or unfit to act **for the allegation of incapacity or unfitness to act**, and the facts relied upon in support of those reasons, and subject to that shall determine its own procedure, and its decision shall be final.

## 50. Oversight and Trusteeship

**512B(7)** The old Circuit Meeting may appeal to the Methodist Council, or to a committee appointed by the Methodist Council for this purpose, against a direction of the authorised body under clause (4) above, *[about the replacement of the old Circuit Meeting by a new Circuit Meeting in an exceptional case]* but until the appeal is determined the direction shall remain in effect. Any such appeal shall be brought by notice in writing ... meeting convened for the purpose. **The appeal shall be determined by a group of five persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel. ...**

**611A(7)** The old Church Council may appeal to the Methodist Council, or to a committee appointed by the Methodist Council for this purpose, against a direction of the authorised body under clause (4) above, *[about the replacement of the old Circuit Meeting by a new Circuit Meeting in an exceptional case]* but until the appeal is determined the direction shall remain in effect. Any such appeal shall be brought by notice in writing ... meeting convened for the purpose. **The appeal shall be determined by a group of five persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel. ...**

### **761 Reinstatement**

**(4)** *[Appointment of panel for reinstatement interviews]* The interviewing committee shall include as voting members the President or the Vice-President or an ex-President or ex-Vice-President as chair, the convener as secretary and up to five other persons chosen **for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Orders 291 by a convener of that panel.**

**7)** ... the interviewing committee's recommendation shall forthwith be communicated to the President of the Conference who shall, in writing, officially inform the applicant, the Methodist Council and, where the applicant is a former deacon, the Warden of the Order.

**(8)** If the interviewing committee recommends that an application be not granted, the Methodist Council may on the application of the applicant **may apply**, by notice in writing to the Secretary of the Conference within seven days of being informed of the recommendation, reverse **for** that recommendation **to be reversed**. **The application shall be decided by a group of five persons chosen for that purpose from the panel constituted under Standing Order 291 by a convener of that panel, and in dealing with the application** On any such application the Methodist Council **the group** shall determine its own procedures.

**(9)** If the Methodist Council refuses **group appointed under clause (8) above declines** to reverse a recommendation that the application be not granted the applicant may...

(10) ... except upon the recommendation of an interviewing committee under clause (5) above, or of the Methodist Council **group** under clause (8) above

### **770 Base of Ministry**

(4)(b) ... appointed to serve in the home Districts for such periods and on such terms as the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee** ...

6)(c) The application shall then be considered by the Methodist Council **Ministries Committee**, which shall have the right to prescribe any tests it may consider necessary and shall ensure that suitable arrangements regarding pension funds can be made and that any other obligations to connexional funds will be met. The ~~council~~ **committee** shall then make its recommendation to the Conference, which shall determine the matter.

### **7. Property matters, in relation to the Connexional Council's own trusteeship.**

*Where the Connexional Council is exercising its functions in relation to other parts of the Connexion (as intended by the Model Trust amendments which are being brought for confirmation to this Conference) the relevant consequential amendments have been included in PART 1(a) above.*

*Any necessary amendments relating to the Connexional Council's own powers and duties as the trustee body for connexional property will be brought on the Order Paper when further consultation and consideration has been able to be brought to bear on this area of work.*