

M20 Authorisation of Small Property Works Update

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| Contact Name and Details | Nick Moore, Head of Support Services mooren@methodistchurch.org.uk |
| Status of Paper | Final |
| Action Required | Decision |
| Draft Resolutions | 50/1. The Council receives the report. |
| Alternative Options to Consider, if Any | None |

Summary of Content

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| Subject and Aims | To inform the Council of work undertaken in response to M20 2015 'Authorisation of Small Property Works'. |
| Background Context and Relevant Documents | Memorial M20 2015 'Authorisation of Small Property Works' |

Introduction

This paper updates the Council on the guidance that has been produced regarding small property improvements that do not require consent, in accordance with the Conference reply to M20 (2015) 'Authorisation of Small Property Works'.

M20 2015 Authorisation of Small Property Works

While recognising the expertise, helpfulness and dedication of the staff in the Connexional Team, the West Somerset (24/25) Circuit Meeting (Present: 35; Voting: unanimous) proposes that decisions regarding small property improvements and like-for-like replacement works be dealt with by the local church Managing Trustees without reference to others except the relevant Local Authority (for planning and conservation issues) as necessary. This might speed the consultation process and release staff in the Connexional Team to deal with larger projects and more urgent matters.

Reply

The Conference thanks the West Somerset Circuit Meeting for its memorial which highlights the need to correctly apply the requirements of Standing Order 930. Standing Order 930(1) already permits non-structural repairs to be undertaken without the need to obtain consent from the appropriate bodies.

The Conference is satisfied that Standing Order 930(1) already allows small property improvements and like-for-like replacement works of a non-structural nature to be undertaken without the need for consent, and therefore does not believe any changes are needed to Standing Orders. However, the Conference does recognise the lack of clarity that there is around what works are permitted without consent, and therefore

directs the Methodist Council to ensure that guidance is drafted to clarify the application of Standing Order 930(1) and that it is made available on the Methodist Church website by 1 September 2016.

New Guidance on Methodist Church Website

Guidance regarding small property improvements that do not require consent has been drafted to clarify the application of Standing Order 930(1) and is now available on the Methodist Church website, as directed by the Council.

The new guidance can be found on the Methodist Church Consents Website when a managing trustee opens the section to add a new project, under the guidance section 'Before Creating a Project' and it is being highlighted across the Connexion in the next edition of the 'Property Matters' e-publication.

*****RESOLUTION**

50/1. The Council receives the report.