

Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC)

Contact Name and Details	Prof Peter D Howdle Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee p.d.howdle@leeds.ac.uk
Resolution	29/1. The Council receives the report.

The SRC met from 20 -21 February 2019 and reports the following matters to the Council:

1. The committee received a report from the chair of the Methodist Modern Art Collection Management Committee (MMACMC). It noted that the management committee had had independent reviews of the collection, its management processes and governance arrangements. The management committee had also revised its strategy for the future with a vision of continuing to use the collection as a means of enhancing worship, mission and evangelism throughout Britain as part of *Our Calling*. The SRC noted that a significant amount of restoration work was necessary and that a new home should be found for the collection with adequate storage and maintenance facilities being available between exhibitions when the collection was not on tour.

The SRC agreed the funding for the restoration work and for interim storage and directed that a further report be brought by April 2020 with a costed plan for a new home for the collection and its long-term development.

2. The committee received a report from the Director of Evangelism and Growth on the applications from districts for funding towards projects as part of the connexional response to *Our Calling*. Nine district projects have been funded at a cost of £882K, with the districts providing matched funding. It was agreed to release a further £600K from the Connexional Priority Fund (CPF) for further district applications.
3. The committee received a report from the Finance Sub-Committee (FSC). It noted that work was proceeding with the closure to future accruals of the Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church (PASLEMC), and that a Defined Contribution Scheme was being made available for employees with enhanced benefits arising out of the consultation with staff.

The committee also noted that the Church had received a donation from William Leech (Investments) Ltd. (the William Leech charities endowment fund) of £3m, which was designated for the World Mission Fund.

4. The committee, after careful consideration, adopted the draft central services budget as presented and recommends it to the Council. [See paper MC/19/31.]

The committee agreed with the Team and the FSC that future budgets should be presented so that expenditure could be clearly seen in relation to specific activities, particularly as regards *Our Calling* themes and priorities.

- (a) The committee recommends to the Council that the Conference be asked to raise the district assessment by 1% pa for the next three years.

- (b) The committee agreed to designate the remainder of the amount above reserve in the CPF to be used for projects relating to evangelism and growth over the next three years (approx. £3M).
- (c) The committee agreed to the use of the Epworth Fund for costs relating to the Vocations Strategy, as discussed at the Council in January 2019.

The committee wished to stress that in recommending the budget it envisaged a deficit on the Methodist Church Fund in each of the next three years but that this was a deliberate decision where reserves would be spent in a positive way to enhance work connexionally.

5. The committee received a report from the MCH Building Project Sub-Committee and noted that work was ongoing with a number of professionals in regard to legal issues, planning, interim arrangements and risks of the project.
6. The committee received a report from the Implementation Group advising on the development of a service level agreement (SLA) between the Council and the Board of TMCP. This SLA was intended to clarify the work carried out by TMCP for managing trustees which has been delegated to it by the Council. The committee noted that developing such a SLA had not been straight forward and that it expected a report on progress would be made to the Council in April 2019. [See paper MC/19/34.]
7. The Connexional Secretary updated the SRC on developments in the senior management of the team including a new structure. It was pleased to note a number of new senior appointments.
8. The committee received a report from the group advising on providing clearer priorities for the award of Mission in Britain grants. The committee approved the report of the review group and recommended it to the Council. [See paper MC/19/36.]
9. The committee had some discussion with the Secretary of the Conference about possible future governance arrangements for the Church and commended further reflection. The SRC requests the Council to report to the Conference that this work is being undertaken and has asked the Secretary to lead a discussion on this area as part of the Council's agenda.

*****RESOLUTION**

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