

Decisions made by the Council since its last meeting

1. Decisions made by the Council

- 1.1 In response to a letter from the Chair of the Council, and in the light of the particular circumstances at that time, the Council agreed that the Conference should meet in a hybrid form, with many fewer people present in the Conference hall than originally envisaged. The Council ratified the approval given by the Chair of the Council to a self-selection process in respect of who should be on site in Birmingham, and agreed that the President of the Conference would have the final authority to decide who would attend physically.
- 1.2 The Council appointed the Singing the Faith Reference Group.
- 1.3 Pursuant to SO 315(1), the Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the Revd Andrew G Fishburne be stationed to the Connexional Team for an initial period of six years from 1 September 2021.
- 1.4 Pursuant to SO 315(1), the Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that the Revd Dr Christine Dutton be stationed to the Connexional Team for an initial period of five years from 1 September 2021.
- 1.5 Following a reinstatement committee held under SO 761, an applicant requested an appeal against the recommendation of the committee. Pursuant to SO 761(8), the Council determined its own procedures for considering the appeal, and declined to reverse the recommendation of the reinstatement committee.
- 1.6 The Council appointed Deacon Jenny Jones and Ms Phoebe Parkin to accompany the President and the Vice-President to the Irish Conference.
- 1.7 The Council agreed to recommend to the President that, pursuant to clause 29(b) of the Deed of Union, the Revd David I H Hardman be stationed to the Connexional Team from 1 September 2021 until the adoption of the stations at the 2022 Conference and to recommend to the Conference that Mr Hardman be appointed to continue in that appointment for a further year from 1 September 2022.

2. Documents signed

No case

3. Action taken

Request to let a caretaker's cottage at undervalue – Kelsale Methodist Church, Ipswich Circuit (14/2) (formerly Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit (14/7))

It has come to the attention of the Conference Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice (COLCP) that a decision to authorise a lease of Model Trust property at below market value was made on behalf of the Council in 2020 without the correct procedure being followed. The Council's Model Trust 20 policy requires all requests for sales and leases at an undervalue to be referred to three members of the Council for consideration and decision. However, in the case of Chapel Cottage, Kelsale, in the Ipswich Circuit (formerly the Lowestoft and East Suffolk Circuit), the process for approving a Model Trust 20 request was overlooked due to the interim arrangements in place in the Conference Office at the time. In July 2020, the Circuit requested formal consent to let Kelsale Methodist Church's caretaker's cottage at a peppercorn to an elderly member of the congregation. The tenant had served the Church in various capacities for many years and had lived in the cottage since 1959 without any formal agreement in place. The Circuit and the District gave their support to

the tenant remaining in the property and wished to regularise the position. The then Interim General Counsel in the Conference Office gave consent to the letting on behalf of the Council. The COLCP now reports the decision to the Council with a recommendation that the Council ratifies the arrangement retrospectively.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

87/1. The Council receives the report.

87/2. The Council ratifies the decision made on its behalf in July 2020 to let Chapel Cottage, Kelsale at a peppercorn rent under Model Trust 20(1).