

36. Report of the One Mission Working Party

Contact Name and Details	The Revd James A Booth, Chair of the Working Party
Resolutions	<p>36/1. The Conference receives the Report.</p> <p>36/2. The Conference directs that from 1 September 2015 a One Mission Forum be established in accordance with paragraphs 10, 12 and 13 of this Report.</p> <p>36/3. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure, by means of a rota that it will publish annually, that the One Mission Forum comprises representatives engaged in a broad range of mission activity covering, as a minimum, the areas of Fresh Ways of Being Church, Evangelism, Community Action and the World Church.</p> <p>36/4. The Conference directs the Methodist Council to ensure that the One Mission Forum is appropriately serviced from within the Connexional Team.</p> <p>36/5. The Conference adopts the changes to standing orders as set out in the report.</p>
Subject and Aims	<p>Part 1 To report on the work of the working party established by the 2013 Conference.</p> <p>Part 2 To propose amendments to various standing orders in light of decisions of the 2013 Conference.</p>
Background Context and Relevant Documents	<p><i>All Partners Consultation Report 2010</i></p> <p><i>Future Mission Together Report 2012 Conference</i></p> <p><i>Report of the Methodist Missionary Society Working Party 2013 Conference</i></p>

Part 1 Work undertaken

1. Mission has always been at the heart of the life of Methodism, and the proposals brought by the Working Party are not to be seen as new or transformative, but as confirming what we have always believed about mission – that it is one – and re-inspiring Methodists as a movement of people fulfilling God’s mission on Earth.

Background

2. In 2012 the Conference received the *Future Mission Together* report, which offered a vision and strategy for the Methodist Church in Britain. In this report the Conference affirmed that “mission is one; holistic, integrated and, at the same time, both local and global” and appointed a working party to give effect to the Vision Statement and the Purposes for Mission, and the integration, where appropriate, of the work of the Methodist Missionary Society into the Methodist Church in Britain.
3. A year later, the Methodist Missionary Society Working Party reported to the 2013 Conference offering a vision and strategy for One Mission in the Methodist Church in Britain.

The report explained how the integration of the work of the Methodist Missionary Society would be absorbed by the Methodist Church in Britain, and presented the Conference with a vision statement for One Mission. The Conference resolved that the Methodist Missionary Society be wound up with immediate effect, and encouraged Local Churches, Circuits and Districts to engage with the One Mission Statement as stated in paragraph 6.3 of the 2013 report.

4. The report also identified that further work needed to be carried out to ensure the full integration of the work of the Methodist Missionary Society into the life of the Church, and the full implementation of the underlying principles and understanding of mission embodied in the *Future Mission Together* report. Towards this end, the Conference directed the Methodist Council to appoint a new working party, to be known as the One Mission Working Party, and directed that the One Mission Working Party should report to the 2014 Conference.
5. Moving towards One Mission emphasises the fact that we live in an ever more connected and globalised world, which necessitates a fresh approach to how mission is understood. One Mission seeks to emphasise that all God's mission is one, whether local or global, evangelism or social action. One Mission is not introducing a new project, but seeks to change perceptions of how current and ongoing work of mission is seen and understood.

Terms of Reference and work completed in response

6. The Working Party was given four Terms of Reference:
 - (i) **To bring about the full integration of the *One Mission* concept into, and its implementation throughout, all levels of the church.**
7. Bringing about full integration of One Mission into all levels of the Church is a huge task, and is not something that can be completed in a single year but over a longer period of time. Full integration throughout all levels of the Church involves changing people's mindsets about mission. The Working Party is of the opinion that this will only come about over a period of time through the regular sharing of mission stories, and in particular those that unite local and global aspects of mission. The Working Party also recognised that it is not possible to legislate for changing people's mindsets, but a forum where the sharing of stories, challenges and ideas takes place could help facilitate change.
8. As stated above, One Mission should be seen neither as a new initiative nor as a short-term project, but rather as a drawing together of the whole of the work of the Church under an overarching One Mission focus. Thus, and by way of illustration only, to describe the Methodist Church as a discipleship movement shaped for mission or to engage in Safeguarding training are not separate from but rather part of God's One Mission.
9. Two bodies that are particularly affected by the One Mission proposals contained within this report are the World Mission Forum and the Overseas Service Group. The World Mission Forum, comprising representatives from each District along with representatives from Methodist Women in Britain, Methodists for World Mission and the Methodist Missionary Society (Ireland), facilitates the sharing of mission stories and initiatives for the global aspect of mission. There is not an equivalent body for mission in Britain, which highlights the fact that there are separate processes and structures for both local and global mission. The group thought that it is not desirable to continue to have a forum focused primarily on mission undertaken beyond our shores, as the future vision is for One Mission. It should also be noted

that the functions of the Overseas Service Group in selecting and supporting pastorally those serving the Church as mission partners are already largely managed through the World Church Relationships team in the Connexional Team and this will continue to be developed. In making the recommendations which follow, however, the group would wish the Conference to acknowledge and applaud the achievements of both the Overseas Service Group and of the World Mission Forum over many years in building relationships and in raising awareness of, engagement in, and commitment to the Church's global mission.

One Mission Forum

10. To bring together mission which has both a local and a global focus, and so promote One Mission, the Working Party proposes that the World Mission Forum and the Overseas Service Group cease to exist, and that in their place one new forum is created which is attended by district representatives covering a broad range of mission activity (areas such as, for example, Fresh Ways of Being Church, Evangelism, Community Action and Mission beyond our shores). It is suggested that Districts be invited to follow a rotational pattern (according to a rota to be established periodically by the Methodist Council which will appoint the Forum) in nominating their representatives for appointment to the Forum which would allow for a wider diversity of stories to be shared from and taken back to the Districts. This would assist in a gradual integration of One Mission across the Connexion. To ensure that all aspects of mission are represented, the new forum should also contain nominees from, at least, the following groups or areas of mission activity: the Methodist Church in Ireland, Methodist Women in Britain, 3Generate (the Children & Youth Assembly), Methodists for World Mission, the Joint Public Issues Team, as well as a Fresh Ways of Being Church practitioner and a chaplaincy practitioner. With this broad representation of mission, the Working Party proposes that the new forum is called the One Mission Forum. To allow enough time for a smooth transition, the World Mission Forum will continue to exist until 31 August 2015, and the One Mission Forum would come into existence from 1 September 2015.

Sharing mission stories

11. The sharing of mission stories both local and global is a crucial aspect in the implementation of One Mission into all levels of the Church. It will be important for representatives to the new One Mission Forum to educate those in their Districts, Circuits and Churches; so that people hear and believe that other stories in different contexts can also become their stories. It is hoped that this will bring together different perspectives on what mission is, and change how the average person relates to mission on a day to day basis. It is also hoped that the new Forum will strengthen links between various groups that have a role to play in the mission of the Church eg All We Can (formerly MRDF), Methodists for World Mission, Methodist Women in Britain etc.
 - (ii) **To make specific recommendations to the 2014 Conference as to how *One Mission* is overseen, promoted, held accountable and embedded into the life of the Methodist people and the Methodist Church in Britain.**
12. The Working Party proposes that the One Mission Forum, by meeting together to confer, share insights and develop vision, will assist the Church in developing and implementing a strategic vision for mission which is both local and global. To ensure that the implementation of this vision is held accountable it is proposed that the Forum is appointed and overseen by the Methodist Council. The Forum would report annually to the Methodist Council to demonstrate how One Mission is being embedded throughout all levels of the Church. The

Council will be responsible for appointing members of the One Mission Forum. It is hoped that this will increase the accountability of Forum representatives to report to Districts of policy developments around mission, and to help raise the profile of the Forum and the responsibilities of Forum members.

13. It is proposed that the One Mission Forum meets at least twice a year, to ensure regular sharing of mission activities, and through its annual report to the Methodist Council to assist the Council in shaping and developing the Church's policy for mission. One Mission will be promoted by press releases and promotion on the Methodist Church website, and a specific communication strategy which is currently being developed in the Connexional Team. Part of the role of being a representative at the new Forum will be to ensure that One Mission appears regularly on District and Circuit meeting agendas so that One Mission is continually promoted and shapes mission policy at all levels of the Church. The Working Party also suggests that the Forum is chaired by either the current or ex President or Vice-President, or the President Designate or Vice-President Designate, to further promote the importance of sharing mission experiences to inspire the Church to take forward God's mission.

Funding

14. The Working Party has explored the financial implications of setting up a new Forum. As the proposals are for two bodies to close (World Mission Forum and the Overseas Service Group), and for one new body to be created (albeit with more people attending), the result would be for fewer meetings to be held, and it is therefore thought that the cost implications will be neutral. Additionally, the new Forum will aim to inspire the Church to get involved in mission, part of which includes making donations.
15. The World Mission Forum meets twice a year, one of which is a residential meeting. The cost of their residential meeting last year came to £6,152.75. This total includes accommodation, meals, Connexional Team staff travel expenses and Forum members' travel expenses. While the cost of a One Mission Forum residential meeting would be more expensive due to more attendees (estimated to be approximately £7,500), and there would also be a small increase in costs of a non-residential gathering at Methodist Church House, any additional cost would be offset by the money saved from not holding meetings of the Overseas Service Group.
16. It should be noted that Districts cover travel costs of up to £80 for World Mission Forum representatives, for one of the two meetings held each year. This practice has been in place since the World Mission Forum was set up in 2006 and the Working Party proposes that this also continues once the One Mission Forum is established.

(iii) To recommend to the 2014 Conference changes to Standing Orders including a new Part within Standing Orders to incorporate *One Mission*.

17. The 2013 Conference, in receiving the report of the Methodist Missionary Society Working Party, authorised the creation of a new section of Standing Orders under the title *The Church in Mission*. The winding up of the Methodist Missionary Society meant that there would need to be a number of consequential changes to existing Standing Orders, as well as the incorporation of some elements of the Methodist Missionary Society Constitution into standing orders. The standing orders formerly contained within the local Church, Circuit and District sections an affirmation that "every member... is as such a member of the Methodist Missionary Society..." With the winding up of the Methodist Missionary Society and the consequent loss of those particular Standing Orders, how do we preserve that sense of the

whole Church and every member being committed to and engaged in that mission which has not just a local, but also a global, focus? Standing Orders currently contain within them Section 35 - Special Provisions, placed together under the Connexional Team. Among other things these Standing Orders relate to work such as Mission alongside the Poor and prison and workplace chaplaincies. Whilst the Connexional Team clearly has a responsibility in these areas, so does the whole Church and every member within it. Without changing current governance, management or policy making processes, it makes sense to draw together some of these Standing Orders under the *Church in Mission* heading. It should be stressed, as is made clear in the introduction to the new Part 10, that every Standing Order is concerned with the enabling and encouragement of the mission of the Church and the creation of a new Part 10 with a mission focus does nothing to undermine this.

18. The World Mission Fund remains a restricted fund and its purposes continue to be determined by SO 362(2). The winding up of the Methodist Missionary Society necessitated amendment of that Standing Order by the 2013 Conference. However, that work was incomplete. The Working Party now recommends further amendment to the wording of SO 362(2) to clarify the purposes of the World Mission Fund without changing the fact that it is a restricted fund used for work overseas. The requirements for initiating and maintaining mission in other countries would be replaced with a broader duty to promote mission overseas.
 19. The above mentioned Section 35 of Standing Orders currently contains within it SO 356, relating to Transfer of Authority. Whilst a note to SO 356(1) makes it clear that the last existing overseas District of the Methodist Church was granted autonomy in 2009, nonetheless, since the Deed of Union (Clause 39) permits (and will continue to permit) the establishment of Churches overseas, this Standing Order remains necessary. It makes sense, in the view of the Working Party, to relocate it in the new Part 10.
 20. The Working Party also wishes to stress that the proposed new Forum will not exercise any governance or policy making function in relation to any aspect of the life of the Church. Governance, oversight and policy determination, including for chaplaincies and all areas of work included in the new Part 10, are not affected either by the creation of the Forum or by the relocation of some Standing Orders in Part 10.
- (iv) To support relevant Connexional Team staff as they continue to educate, communicate and encourage Methodists throughout the Connexion, enabling a better understanding and practice of *One Mission*.**
21. The implementation of One Mission across all levels of the Methodist Church will require members of the Connexional Team to understand and communicate the One Mission vision effectively. Areas of the Connexional Team that have a particular responsibility to embed One Mission principles and understanding into and throughout their work include Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network Regional Coordinators and Officers, Church and Community Development, World Church Relationships, Grants, Publishing and Fundraising, Joint Public Issues, Communications and Campaigns, and Heritage. If the Conference agrees to the proposals, a policy document will be circulated to these teams to inform and outline the decisions made, so that this new understanding of mission and the framework under which it will operate is promoted.
 22. In the longer term, these particular areas of the Connexional Team will need to continuously feed into the agenda of the One Mission Forum. The World Church Relationships team will represent the needs of Partner Churches and keep them informed of the developments. This

will enable the Connexional Team to ensure that One Mission is a key component of all parts of the work of the church.

Consultations

23. The composition of the Working Party aimed to represent a variety of stakeholders. These areas included Joint Public Issues, Fresh Ways of Being Church, Methodist Women in Britain, and Children & Youth. The World Church Relationships team leader provided the Working Party with non-voting support. All representatives of the group were asked to gather stories about mission particularly where the local and global have come together, from their respective representations and backgrounds. Electronic copies of these stories can be obtained from the Mission and Advocacy Cluster of the Connexional Team and will be published on the Methodist Church website.
24. A meeting was also held with representatives of the Methodist Church in Ireland to discuss how to continue a good working relationship when moving forward together with the new One Mission vision. Feedback has also been obtained from the Chaplaincy Officers in the Connexional Team about how the work of chaplaincy relates to One Mission. The Chair of the World Mission Forum, the Revd Stephen Poxon, has also been informed of the proposals.

Communication and publicity

25. Effective communication of One Mission is key to embedding the understanding of One Mission in all levels of the Church. A One Mission communication strategy is being developed by the Connexional Team. Stakeholders who need to promote One Mission are being identified, as are methods of how they will be targeted and resourced. Part of the strategy includes the production and distribution of a One Mission resource to be used as Bible study material in house groups to help bring about change about how mission is understood at a local level. There are also plans to ensure that the new local preachers' training course includes One Mission as part of the required study areas. These initiatives are aimed at facilitating a stronger understanding of One Mission in all aspects of the Methodist Church.

Conclusion

26. The One Mission Working Party was set up as a result of years of consultation about mission across the world. It is important not to lose the years of positive engagement with mission partners, and One Mission should be seen as an opportunity to grow beyond this history and to recognise that local and global, evangelism and social justice is all one mission, and we are called to serve God in mission where we are, here in Britain, and also across the world. One Mission is not a new creation, but a different perception of the good work that is already happening in different places. Significantly, it is not about eroding the value of the different strands of mission taking part in their various contexts, but about bringing those strands together to form a more unified approach to God's mission.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

36/1. The Conference received the Report.

36/2. The Conference directed that from 1 September 2015 a One Mission Forum be established in accordance with paragraphs 10, 12 and 13 of this Report.

36/3. The Conference directed the Methodist Council to ensure, by means of a rota that it will publish annually, that the One Mission Forum comprises representatives engaged in a broad range of mission activity covering, as a minimum, the areas of Fresh Ways of Being Church, Evangelism, Community Action and the World Church.

36/4. The Conference directed the Methodist Council to ensure that the One Mission Forum is appropriately serviced from within the Connexional Team.

Part 2 Standing Order changes

Report

PART 10 THE CHURCH IN MISSION

The Conference of 2012 received the *Future Mission Together* report and, in so doing, affirmed that, with the last overseas District of the British Methodist Church, The Gambia District, becoming an autonomous Conference in May 2009, new models of mission and partnership were required for engagement in God's worldwide mission.

In practice that process of development of such new models of mission and partnership had been taking place over many years with the effective incorporation of the work of the Methodist Missionary Society into that of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The *Future Mission Together* report has, at its heart, the conviction that there is no essential difference in the mission of God wherever it is exercised, for God's mission is one and that mission is both local and global.

The Conference resolved that there was no longer a need for the Methodist Missionary Society to be a separate entity and that its work should be recognised as incorporated into, and so informing every aspect of, the life of the Methodist Church in Britain. That resolve of the Conference of 2012 was reaffirmed by the decision of the Conference of 2013 that the Methodist Missionary Society be wound up. Whilst every clause of the Deed of Union and every Standing Order is concerned with the mission of the Church and the title to, and content of, this Part does nothing to change that, these resolutions of the Conference have provided the opportunity to draw together here Standing Orders, some formerly located elsewhere in CPD, which preserve the essential elements of the Constitution of the Methodist Missionary Society, which enable and encourage the mission of the Church in Britain and across the world, and which give effect to the resolutions of the Conference.

For the sake of clarity and the avoidance of any future doubt so far as legacies given in the past or to be given in the future, and for all purposes for which it may have application, it should be noted that the Conference in 2013, in the exercise of its power under section 24 of the Methodist Church Act 1976, resolved that with effect from 1 September 2013 the corresponding body to the Methodist Missionary Society is the Methodist Church.

It should also be noted that the Methodist World Mission Fund remains a restricted fund, the purposes of which are specified in Standing Order 362.

1000 General (1) *In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Through the Church, the Body of Christ, within which the Methodist Church claims and cherishes its place, God seeks to*

reconcile the world itself into a unity in Christ. In this mission, necessarily undertaken both locally and globally, the vocation of the Church is to be a sign, witness, foretaste and instrument of the Kingdom of God.

[2 Corinthians 5 v 19; Deed of Union Cl 4; Called to Love and Praise para 3.2.1; All Partners Consultation; Future Mission Together report to the 2012 Conference]

(2) The Methodist Church is committed actively and intentionally to work towards a world transformed by the love of God, sharing the love of God and celebrating its place within a worldwide family.

(3) Every member of the Methodist Church is expected actively to engage in this mission which lies at the heart of the nature, identity and self-understanding of the Church.

(4) The terms 'overseas' and 'home' have the meanings and uses assigned to them in the Deed of Union and elsewhere in Standing Orders but there is no distinction between the nature of mission exercised in different parts of the world.

[Deed of Union Clause 1(xiii), (xxv); Clause 38, Clause 39; Standing Orders 002(1)(x), 003(iii), 212(9),216, 714, 1151(4)(5)]

1001 One Mission Forum (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a One Mission Forum to discharge the following responsibilities:

- (i) to develop and support a network of people committed to mission both local and global;***
- (ii) to challenge the Church to learn from and keep constantly under review its place within the world Church;***
- (iii) to share insights and develop vision;***
- (iv) to confer about how the vision and policies for mission adopted by the Conference; might be implemented in the Church.***

(2) (a) The Forum shall consist of:

- (i) the Chair, appointed as such in accordance with sub-clause (b) below;***
- (ii) from each home District one representative elected by the District Synod in accordance with a rota published annually by the Methodist Council;***
- (iii) One representative each appointed by:***
 - a. The Methodist Church in Ireland***
 - b. The Methodist Children and Youth Assembly***
- (iv) Such other person or persons as the council may from time to time determine to ensure that the breadth of mission activity across the connexion is adequately represented.***

(b) (i) The Chair shall at the time of appointment be the current President or Vice-President, the ex-President or ex-Vice-President or the President or Vice-President designate of the Conference.

(ii) The Chair shall be appointed by the Methodist Council to serve for six years.

(3) The Forum shall normally meet twice in each connexional year.

(4) The Forum shall report annually to the Methodist Council to enable the Church to develop and implement a strategic vision for mission which is both local and global.

1002 Relations with Partner Churches (1) The Conference has declared its commitment 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.

(2) The Methodist Council shall be responsible 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.

(3) Wherever possible lay persons appointed for service under clause (2) above shall for the duration of their service overseas transfer their membership to a Local Church in the place where they serve.

(4) Those appointed for service under clause (2) above serve at the invitation of and under the regulations and, subject to clause (5) below, the discipline of the church or agency concerned.

(5) The mutually agreed arrangements referred to in clause (2) 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 home church.

[See Part 11 of Standing Orders for matters relating to Complaints and Discipline]

(6) The Methodist Council shall have authority to issue, as occasion may require, codes of regulations and by-laws for the guidance and control of personnel overseas. The council or any body to which it may for the time being delegate its authority in this regard may recall any such person for any reason which the council or other body exercising this power deems sufficient, having due regard to the mutual arrangements agreed in accordance with clause (2) above.

1003 Junior Mission for All and Youth Affairs (1) In every Circuit and local Church there shall where possible be a Junior Mission for All group whose purposes shall be to encourage children and young people to learn, pray and serve with the worldwide Church of Christ and to raise money for mission.

(2) It shall be a purpose of every District, Circuit and local Church to encourage the development of a world outlook to mission in every group meeting under Methodist auspices and working with children, young people and young adults, thus encouraging the whole Church to share in the task of mission.

1004 Mission Alongside the Poor Programme. (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 the poor and disadvantaged, 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 the Mission Alongside the Poor Programme.

(2) The purposes of the programme are:

- (i) advocacy of the Church's commitment to the poor and disadvantaged;
- (ii) assistance by way of grants for personnel or property schemes, primarily to Local Churches and Circuits, to assist them in mission alongside the poor;
- (iii) the maintenance of the Mission Alongside the Poor Fund as one of the sources from which such grants may be made.

(3) Grants from Methodist funds for the Mission Alongside the Poor Programme, 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 relative poverty whether in an urban or a rural setting;
- (ii) there must be a commitment to work alongside the poor and disadvantaged, thereby enabling them better to respond to their own sense of God's calling.

(4) Grants may be made under clause (3) for applications within the purposes of the relevant fund which would not otherwise qualify for a grant.

[As to grants from the Methodist Church Fund see S.O. 361(4), from the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund S.O. 362(3), from the Methodist Fund for Property S.O. 362(5), from the London Mission Fund S.O. 363(8), and from the Connexional Priority Fund S.O. 974(1A).]

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 Council 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.

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 offender 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.

1007 The Forces. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force Board ('the Forces Board'), through which it shall exercise general oversight of:

- (i) the work of all presbyters who are set apart to serve under the direction of the council as chaplains to the forces;
- (ii) the work of all deacons serving in support of chaplains;
- (iii) all lay workers employed by the council to serve in support of chaplains;
- (iv) declared Methodists in the forces.

['Declared Methodists' is a category employed by the Ministry of Defence in determining the number of chaplaincy appointments.]

(2) The Forces Board shall also exercise a general oversight of the work of presbyters appointed to serve as Reserve Chaplains, Officiating Chaplains and Cadet Force Chaplains.

(3) The board shall through its secretary make such arrangements with the government authorities as may be necessary for the well-being of Methodist members of the forces and their families.

(4) (a) The secretary of the board shall be responsible for recommending both to the government department concerned and to the Stationing Committee the name of any person to be appointed as a full-time chaplain to the forces, subject to any policy as to overall numbers of such chaplains agreed by the committee.

(b) Chaplains shall be regarded as presbyters in the home work. Deacons serving in support of chaplains shall be similarly regarded. In either case they shall be members of the Synod of the District specified for that purpose in the stations and, in the case of presbyters, subject to its discipline, but each shall, nevertheless, attend the Synod of the District in which he or she is serving and shall be eligible for election by that Synod as a representative to the Conference.

[For reports to be made to Synods see S.O. 442.]

(5) Such chaplains, deacons and lay workers are not appointed to the Circuits in which they are for the time being located, and their services may be utilised for circuit purposes only so far as is consistent with the discharge of their proper duties. In order that opportunities of fellowship and service may be offered to them, the secretary of the board shall notify the Superintendents and Chairs involved of any change in the Circuit or District in which they are located.

[They should be invited to circuit staff meetings (S.O. 523(1)).]

(6) The financial support of the work of forces chaplains is provided from government payments.

(7) The secretary of the board shall be responsible for maintaining the Forces Membership Roll and for making the annual return of members held on it.

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.

1009 Transfer of Authority. (1) Every request for a new relationship involving the modification of the authority of the Conference over the Synod submitted by an overseas Synod **constituted pursuant to the provisions of clause 39(b) of the Deed of Union** shall be considered by the Methodist Council in consultation with the Synod concerned and reported to the Conference.

(2) Before making its recommendation the council shall consult the Faith and Order, Law and Polity and World Methodist Committees.

[For the Faith and Order, Law and Polity and World Methodist Committees see respectively S.O. 330, 338 and 335.]

(3) In all cases where the Conference is satisfied that autonomy is the appropriate next step in the growth of the Church and that the requirements of clause 44(a) of the Deed of Union are met the Conference shall exercise its powers under that clause to concur in the establishment of an autonomous Methodist Church and to grant, convey and transfer any relevant authority, power and properties accordingly.

(4) In all cases where the Conference is satisfied that the appropriate conditions exist, it shall exercise its powers under clause 46 of the Deed of Union to approve a scheme or arrangement for the unification, amalgamation or association of an overseas District **constituted pursuant to the provisions of clause 39(b) of the Deed of Union** with another Christian church or organisation, and take any further steps necessary to give effect to such approval.

For the Deed of Union see Book II, Part 1.

(5) The Conference will seek the closest possible co-operation with any church or organisation so established. The terms of such cooperation shall be entered into by freely negotiated agreement.

Consequential changes to Standing Orders

S.O. 102(1)(f) Two persons, each of whom is serving overseas under the direction of the council or is a minister whose ministry is based on an overseas ~~District~~ **appointment under Standing Order 780(1)(vi)**.....

S.O. 216 (1) In every **any** overseas District **established pursuant to clause 39 of the Deed of Union** all the work shall be administered.....

S.O. 351 Relocate as S.O. 1004

S.O. 353 Relocate as S.O. 1005

S.O. 354 Relocate as S.O. 1006

S.O. 355 Relocate as S.O. 1007

S.O. 355A Relocate as S.O. 1008

S.O. 356 Relocate in amended form as S.O. 1009

S.O. 357 Employment Relocate as S.O. 329 (in CPD Section 32, page 385 current 2013 edition)

S.O. 358 Relocate as S.O. 305 (in CPD Section 30, page 374 current 2013 edition)

S.O. 362 Specified Funds. (1) The Methodist Council shall raise and administer 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) The purposes of the Methodist World Mission Fund shall be [...]:

(i) to ~~initiate, maintain~~ **promote** and encourage Christian mission in ~~other countries~~ **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 ~~a continuing~~ relationships of mutual help and enrichment with churches ~~(including united churches) in the life of which Methodist missions have played a part~~ **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 ~~and the Churches' Commission on Mission~~;

~~(ivA) [deleted]~~

(v) in furtherance of these purposes to engage in education, advocacy, recruitment and fundraising.

~~Note in relation to the Standing Order below and elsewhere: although the provisions as to the overseas work and overseas Districts remain, in 2009 the last remaining overseas District of the Methodist Church was granted autonomy, as The Methodist Church The Gambia; there are therefore now no overseas Districts or overseas stations.~~

S.O. 770 Base of Ministry. (1) All presbyters and deacons received into Full Connexion with the Conference shall be accepted for ministry based on the home Districts unless upon reception an overseas District **appointment under Standing Order 780(1)(vi)** is specified as the base of ministry. Their names shall be recorded upon reception in the Journal and the Minutes, which shall distinguish between those whose ministry is based upon the home Districts, and those whose ministry is based upon a specified overseas District **appointment**, and shall in addition identify those who are serving elsewhere than in the territory or territories upon which their ministry is based.

~~The 'home Districts' and 'overseas District' are defined in **For definitions and their application refer to** cl. 1(xiii) and (xxv) of the Deed of Union (Book II, Part 1) as applied by **and** S.O. 002(1)(x), 003(iii). But see note at the beginning of this Standing Order.~~

(2) All presbyters and deacons, whatever their base of ministry, shall have equal status as presbyters or deacons respectively, but the recruitment, training and terms of service of any presbyter or deacon whose ministry is based on an overseas District **appointment** shall be the subject of **mutually agreed** regulations ~~appropriate to the District concerned, framed by the Methodist Council acting in association with the Synod, and, in the case of a deacon, with the advice of the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order.~~ Save under the provisions of clause (4) below a presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion serving in a District of the Methodist Church **an overseas appointment** shall be stationed in the territory or territories upon which his or her ministry is based.

~~For overseas appointments see also Standing Order 1002~~

(3) Membership of the Conference shall be open to a presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion whose ministry is based on an overseas District **appointment** only (i) by election as a representative of the Methodist Council under Standing Order 102(1)(i), head (f), or (ii) while stationed in a home District, upon the terms which apply to presbyters or deacons whose ministry is based on the home Districts.

Membership of the Presbyteral Session of the Conference only is therefore open to such presbyters by permission under the provisions of cl. 15(a)(ii) of the Deed of Union (Book II, Part 1).

(4) (a) Subject to sub-clause (c) below a presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion may without changing the territory or territories on which his or her ministry is based, be appointed to serve in an overseas ~~District~~ **appointment** or a mission partnership with another conference or church under Standing Order 780(1)(vi) or be permitted to serve another conference or church under Standing Order 735.

(b) A presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion whose ministry is based on an overseas ~~District~~ **appointment** may, without changing that base, be appointed to serve in the home Districts for such periods and on such terms as the Methodist Council on the advice of the responsible Team member and, in the case of a deacon, the Warden of the Order shall arrange.

(c) Where it is proposed under sub-clause (a) above to appoint a presbyter or deacon whose ministry is based on the home Districts to serve in his or her home country overseas, the responsible Team member and, in the case of a deacon, the Warden of the Order shall first consider and advise the Council whether it would be more appropriate for the service to be on terms which obtain for those whose ministry is based in that country.

~~For permission to serve another conference or church see S.O. 735.~~

~~For arrangements with other conferences and churches about oversight, terms and conditions of service etc. see S.O. 736.~~

~~For transfer to another conference or church see S.O. 730.~~

(5) In clause (4)(c) above 'home country' means the country in which the minister or deacon is domiciled for the purpose of English Law.

(6) (a) A presbyter or deacon in Full Connexion seeking to change the base of his or her ministry shall apply to the Synod of which he or she is a member. The Synod shall consider the application in its Presbyteral Session in the case of a presbyter and in its Representative Session in the case of a deacon. In each case the application shall be forwarded, with the recommendation of the Synod, to the Secretary of the Conference.

(b) The Secretary of the Conference shall invite the comments of the Connexional Team member appointed to the Stationing Committee under Standing Order 322(1)(vi) and, in the case of a deacon, the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order upon any such application. ~~If the application is for transfer to an overseas District the consent of the Synod of that District shall be necessary to its acceptance.~~

(c) The application shall then be considered by the Methodist Council, 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 ~~or to overseas district funds~~ will be met. The council shall then make its recommendation to the Conference, which shall determine the matter.

In relation to clauses (4) and (6) above:

For permission to serve another conference or church see S.O. 735.

For arrangements with other conferences and churches about oversight, terms and conditions of service etc. see S.O. 736.

For transfer to another conference or church see S.O. 730.

For selection, training and appointment of mission partners see S.O. 1002

780 Types of Station. (1) Presbyters, deacons and probationers shall be stationed by the Conference in one of the following ways:

.....

(vi) in a mission partnership with an ~~overseas District~~, another **autonomous** conference or **united** church **or other agency** as approved by the Stationing Committee on a recommendation from the Connexional Team member appointed to the committee under Standing Order 322(1)(vi);

Add additional footnote to SO 1151(5) as follows:

Refer also to S.O. 1002(5)

S.O. 1002 (Presbyteral Synod Agenda) Relocate as S.O. 488

Consequential amendments to footnotes

SO 214 – change SO 355 to SO 1007

SO 361(4) – change SO 351 to SO 1004

SO 402(6) – change SO 355(3) to SO 1007(4)

SO 410(2) – change SO 355(3) to SO 1007(4)

SO 417(1) – change SO 355(3) to SO 1007(4)

SO 520(1) – change SO 355(3)(4) to SO 1007(4)(5)

SO 523(1) – change SO 355(4) to SO 1007(5)

SO 526(2) – change SO 354 to SO 1006 and SO 355 to SO 1007

SO 741 – change SO 355(3) to SO 1007(4)

SO 772(1) – change SO 355 to SO 1007

SO 785(8) – change SO 355 to SO 1007

Note:

Suggested footnotes have been included for assistance and by way of illustration, but footnotes to Standing Orders are editorial only (S.O. 017), and the Conference is not therefore being invited to adopt them.

*****RESOLUTION**

36/5. The Conference adopted the changes to standing orders as set out in the report.