

SO 494 – Candidates in the Welsh language work MC/24/28

Date of meeting	29-30 January 2024
Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Jennifer Hurd and the Revd Andrew Charlesworth, Chairs of Wales Synod Cymru Jennifer.Hurd@methodist.org.uk ChairAC@methodistwales.org.uk
Action required	For decision
Resolutions	28/1. The Council receives the report. 28/2. The Council agrees to recommend to the Conference that Standing Order 494 be deleted.

Summary of content

Subject of aims	To ask the Council to recommend that SO 494 be deleted.
Main points	SO 494 is no longer relevant as it can be addressed by connexional policy and provisions generally applying to candidates for the presbyterate.
Background context and relevant documents (with function)	Report 41 to the 2023 Conference: https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/27753/conf-22-pc-41-wales-synod-cymru.pdf
Consultations	The Law and Polity Committee

Summary of impact

Standing Orders	SO 494
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SO 494 – Candidates in the Welsh language work

MC/24/28

- 1 The 2022 Conference received a report from the Council relating to the merger of Synod Cymru and the Wales Synod, to create Wales Synod Cymru. The full report is available here:
<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/27753/conf-22-pc-41-wales-synod-cymru.pdf>
- 2 The 2022 Conference passed a series of resolutions in connection with that report, including Resolution 41/5:

41/5 The Conference suspends Standing Order 494 until the close of the 2023 Conference, and directs that during the period of suspension the matter shall be regulated according to any connexional policy or provisions generally applying to candidates for the presbyterate.
- 3 The suspension was automatically lifted at the close of the 2023 Conference and the Law and Polity Committee has queried whether the Standing Order remains relevant.
- 4 Standing Order 494 says this:

494 Candidates. A candidate for the presbyterate in the Welsh language work who is eligible for and desires to pursue a university course may be permitted to do so by Wales Synod Cymru if, in the opinion of the Synod, he or she possesses exceptional qualities likely to render the intended course of special advantage both to him or her and to the Welsh language work. Any cost involved shall be met by Wales Synod Cymru.
- 5 The Wales Synod Cymru District Policy Committee has considered the matter and believes that there is no need to enshrine provisions for training in the Welsh language work within Standing Orders. The matter can be addressed under connexional policy and the general provisions applying to candidates for the presbyterate.
- 6 The Council is therefore asked to approve the proposal that SO 494 be deleted and to recommend this to the 2024 Conference.

***RESOLUTIONS

28/1. The Council receives the report.

28/2. The Council agrees to recommend to the Conference that Standing Order 494 be deleted.