

SO 793 Returning to the Active Work

MC/23/33

Date of meeting	25-27 March 2023
Contact name and details	The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, soc@methodistchurch.org.uk
Action required	To approve
Resolutions	<p>33/1. The Council receives the report.</p> <p>33/2. The Council accepts the recommendation to amend SO 793 to allow the President to grant permission for a supernumerary to return to the active work in case of emergencies.</p> <p>33/3. The Council refers this to the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary changes to the Standing Order.</p>

SO 793 lays out the process by which supernumerary ministers are able to return to the active work. The process as laid out in the Standing Order is for any applications to be made to the Stationing Advisory Committee, which in turn makes a recommendation to the Conference.

- 1 There are situations that arise unexpectedly and can cause urgent needs within Circuits. In some cases supernumerary ministers are able to support the additional needs of a Circuit. However, if a supernumerary is looking to have pastoral charge of a church, then they need to return to the active work. As stated, SO 793 reserves this decision for the Conference.
- 2 The President (or, on their behalf, the Vice-President) has the authority in certain circumstances to grant ill health retirement on the recommendation of the medical committee (SO 790(2)(f)). It would be beneficial to circuits with urgent stationing needs were the President (or, on their behalf, the Vice-President) also able to grant permission for a supernumerary to return to the active work between meetings of the Conference.
- 3 Therefore, the Council is asked to recommend that SO 793 should be amended to include, "or in case of an emergency, by the President (or, on their behalf, the Vice-President)" and to refer the matter to the Law and Polity Committee to draft the necessary changes. The Ministries Committee has considered this and supports this recommendation.

***RESOLUTIONS

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- 33/2. The Council accepts the recommendation to amend SO 793 to allow the President to grant permission for a supernumerary to return to the active work in case of emergencies.**
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