

Oversight and Trusteeship

Contact Name and Details	The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler, Secretary of the Conference SoC@methodistchurch.org.uk
Status of Paper	Final
Subject and Aims	To update the Council in relation to the work directed by the Conference to take forward the Oversight and Trusteeship proposals.
Resolution	100/1. The Council receives the report.

1. The Conference passed the resolutions relating to the Oversight and Trusteeship work as follows:

25/0. The Conference receives the Report and invites comments on it from around the Connexion.

25/1. The Conference welcomes and affirms the ethos and direction of the Report's section on local church trusteeship, and supports the suggestion that raising the minimum size for a Local Church will assist Circuits to coordinate their mission. The Conference, therefore, directs the Methodist Council, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to ensure that a review of Standing Order 605 (1) and (2) takes place and that a proposal is brought to the 2021 Conference to raise the minimum size for a Local Church, together with examples of creative ways in which one Church on multiple sites and/or federations of classes under a united Church Council can enable local missional communities to flourish. In the light of this, and to maximise the potential fruitfulness of all Circuits' use of their resources, the Conference further directs all Circuit Meetings to review the number of Church Councils in the Circuit and encourages Church Councils to work together to determine the best way of working to achieve the minimum number of trustee bodies necessary to fulfil its calling.

25/1a. The Conference directs Circuit Meetings and Church Councils to undertake Unconscious Bias related training in order to ensure equality and diversity within the appointments process of the new trustee bodies.

25/2. The Conference refers to the Law and Polity Committee Section 4 of the report and directs the Committee to report to the 2021 Conference on the legal and constitutional issues that the proposal to create a smaller trustee body raises.

25/3. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a review of the size of the Conference as required under SO 100(2) and to report with recommendations for any changes to the 2021 Conference.

25/4. The Conference directs the Strategy and Resources Committee in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee to review the constitution, function and inter-relationship of all connexional committees, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.

25/5. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to bring proposals for a discernment process for senior posts, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.

25/6. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to ensure that each District reviews its mission plan, committee structure and ways of working and considers its findings alongside other Districts in a regional grouping.

25/6a. The Conference directs that within the process of reviewing mission plans, committee structures and ways of working at District Level, equality and diversity will be taken into

consideration, and that any persons responsible for appointing new members to those committees will undertake Unconscious Bias related training.

- 25/7. *The Conference directs the Council to appoint a task group to receive reports from regional groups and to report to the 2021 Conference with proposals for change from 2022 onwards.*
- 25/8. *The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to consider the report and to report to the 2021 Conference on the faith and order issues that the proposals raise.*
- 25/9. *The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a small group to have oversight of the work on structures of oversight and trusteeship to ensure that there is collaborative working, further consultation as necessary and that concerns already identified and comments received after the Conference are addressed, and in order to ensure that the proposals brought to the 2021 Conference are cohesive and comprehensive.*

It is proposed that the small group comprises the Secretary of the Conference, the Connexional Secretary, the chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, a representative of the Faith and Order Committee, a representative of the concerns of equality diversity and inclusion, a representative of the Law and Polity Committee, a District Chair, a Superintendent, a lay Synod Secretary and a circuit steward.

2. The small group in 25/9 (the coordination group) has been populated as follows:

Secretary of the Conference – The Revd Dr Jonathan R Hustler
Connexional Secretary – Mr Doug Swanney
Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee – Dr Daleep Mukarji
Representative of the Faith & Order Committee– The Revd Dr Nicola Price-Tebbutt
A representative of the concerns of equality diversity and inclusion – The Revd Charity Nzewegu.
Representative of the Law & Polity Committee – The Revd James N Tebutt
A District Chair – The Revd Loraine N Mellor
A Superintendent – The Revd Andrew M Fox
A lay Synod Secretary – Mrs Sandy Coates
Circuit Steward – Ms Alethia Siow

3. An update in relation to each resolution is shown in the table below.

*****RESOLUTION**

100/1. The Council receives the report.

Resolution	Next steps	Reporting
25/0. The Conference receives the Report and invites comments on it from around the Connexion.	The Connexional Secretary to work with the Director of Communications to develop a communications strategy.	Comments received to form part of the report presented to the 2021 Conference.
25/1. The Conference welcomes and affirms the ethos and direction of the Report's section on local church trusteeship, and supports the suggestion that raising the minimum size for a Local Church will assist Circuits to coordinate their mission. The Conference, therefore, directs the Methodist Council, in consultation with the Law and Polity Committee, to ensure that a review of Standing Order 605 (1) and (2) takes place and that a proposal is brought to the 2021 Conference to raise the minimum size for a Local Church, together with examples of creative ways in which one Church on multiple sites and/or federations of classes under a united Church Council can enable local missional communities to flourish. In the light of this, and to maximise the potential fruitfulness of all Circuits' use of their resources, the Conference further directs all Circuit Meetings to review the number of Church Councils in the Circuit and encourages Church Councils to work together to determine the best way of working to achieve the minimum number of trustee bodies necessary to fulfil its calling.	Small group formed from the Coordination Group to consider the question of the minimum size and to map examples of different ways in which local churches can be governed.	Proposals to be brought to the Council (January 2021) and the Law and Polity Committee
25/1a. The Conference directs Circuit Meetings and Church Councils to undertake Unconscious Bias related training in order to ensure equality and diversity within the appointments process of the new trustee bodies.	Being taken forward by the Learning Network.	
25/2. The Conference refers to the Law and Polity Committee Section 4 of the report and directs the Committee to report to the 2021 Conference on the legal and constitutional issues that the proposal to create a smaller trustee body	Being taken forward by the Law and Polity Committee.	Law and Polity Committee to report to the Coordination Group by December/January.

raises.		
25/3. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a review of the size of the Conference as required under SO 100(2) and to report with recommendations for any changes to the 2021 Conference.	The Secretary of the Conference is taking this forward. See paper MC/20/XX	This work does not affect the other aspects of this work but the Coordination Group will be informed of its recommendations.
25/4. The Conference directs the Strategy and Resources Committee in consultation with the Faith and Order Committee to review the constitution, function and inter-relationship of all connexional committees, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.	An initial paper was discussed by the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC) at its September meeting. The Chair of the SRC will discuss it with the Secretary of the Faith and Order Committee.	The proposals will need to link with whatever is proposed in relation to a smaller trustee body.
25/5. The Conference directs the Ministries Committee to bring proposals for a discernment process for senior posts, to bring interim proposals to the 2021 Conference, and to bring a full report with proposed changes to the Standing Orders to the 2022 Conference.	This is being followed up by the Ministries Committee.	
25/6. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to ensure that each District reviews its mission plan, committee structure and ways of working and considers its findings alongside other Districts in a regional grouping.	This is being followed up. See paper MC/20/XX (District Reviews)	
25/6a. The Conference directs that within the process of reviewing mission plans, committee structures and ways of working at District Level, equality and diversity will be taken into consideration, and that any persons responsible for appointing new members to those committees will undertake Unconscious Bias related training.	This will be undertaken online – the Connexional Secretary will update the District Chairs in relation to the plans for the training.	
25/7. The Conference directs the Council to appoint a task group to receive reports from regional groups and to report to the	This is in process. See paper MC/20/XX (District Reviews)	

2021 Conference with proposals for change from 2022 onwards.		
25/8. The Conference directs the Faith and Order Committee to consider the report and to report to the 2021 Conference on the faith and order issues that the proposals raise.	A small group of the Faith and Order Committee will consider the report and highlight issues.	
25/9. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Conference to convene a small group to have oversight of the work on structures of oversight and trusteeship to ensure that there is collaborative working, further consultation as necessary and that concerns already identified and comments received after the Conference are addressed, and in order to ensure that the proposals brought to the 2021 Conference are cohesive and comprehensive.	The Coordination Group has met and considered the work as a whole.	