

41. Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (2)

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SECTION J

TERM OF MEMBERSHIP FOR THE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Report

The Council is recommending to the Conference that new members of the Ministries Committee be appointed for an initial period of three years with the possibility of an extension of up to three years rather than the current four year term. Should the Conference accept the Council's recommendation the proposed Standing Order amendment is set out below.

32A0 Ministries Committee

(4) All members of ~~persons~~ *persons appointed to* the committee shall *initially be appointed* ~~eligible to serve~~ for a period *of three years and may be reappointed for a further period of no more than three* ~~not exceeding four~~ years.

***RESOLUTIONS

41/1. The Conference adopted the Report.

41/2. The Conference amended Standing Order 32A0 as set out in the Report.

SECTION K

THE FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS

Report

The Connexional Allowances Committee is recommending to the Conference that Standing Order 364(1) be amended to allow any minister, probationer or student minister who has a member of their immediate household who is ill or impaired to apply for support from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons. Should the Conference accept the recommendation of the Committee, the necessary amendments to Standing Orders are set out below.

364 Other Restricted Funds. (1) The Methodist Council shall raise and administer the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons, the objects of which shall be to provide assistance at the discretion of the council, or of any committee or officer to whom it may delegate its powers in this behalf, to:

(i) [...]

(iv) ministers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment or the illness or impairment of ~~their spouse or any dependent children~~ *any member of their immediate household*, for the purpose of enabling them to continue in or resume the active work;

(v) probationers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment or the illness or impairment of ~~their spouse or any dependent children~~ *any member of their immediate household*, for the purpose of enabling them to continue on or resume probation or to complete probation and enter the active work;

(vi) student ministers who are in need as a result of illness or impairment, or the illness or impairment of ~~their spouse or any dependent children~~ *any member of their immediate household*, for the purpose of enabling them to continue their ministerial formation and training; and

(vii) ministers' and probationers' widows or widowers who are in need;

and to make grants to the Methodist Ministers' Housing Society.

***RESOLUTIONS

41/3. The Conference adopted the Report.

41/4. The Conference amended Standing Order 364(1) as set out in the Report.

SECTION L

MERGER OF PCPOC and DCPOC

Report

The Conference in 2013 received a report from the Ministries Committee which identified the need for the establishment of a single Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (MCPOC). In 2014 the Conference received a report from the Presbyteral and Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee which proposed that a single committee be established by 1 September 2015. The amendments to Standing Order 321 and the consequential amendments are set out below.

***RESOLUTIONS

41/5. The Conference adopted the Report.

41/6. The Conference amended Standing Orders as follows:

321 ~~Presbyteral~~ Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee. (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a connexional ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee consisting of:

- (i) ~~six~~ **no more than three** representatives of oversight committees of ~~theological colleges and other training institutions;~~
- (ii) ~~seven~~ **eleven** representatives of district Candidates Committees and district Probationers Committees, with not less than two from each type of committee within that total;
- (iii) one district Chair;
- (iv) ~~six persons who are not presbyters;~~
- (v) ~~three~~ **two of the** Team members responsible ~~respectively~~ for presbyteral candidates, initial presbyteral training and presbyteral probationers overseas, and the secretary of the Stationing Advisory Committee;
- (vi) one representative of Synod Cymru when the business requires it;
- (vii) ~~one presbyteral probationer and one student presbyter for all business other than the discussion of individual cases;~~
- (viii) further deacons where necessary to ensure that the committee includes at least two;
- (ix) the secretary of the Stationing Advisory Committee when the business requires it;**
- (x) the Warden or deputy Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order for all business other than the discussion of individual cases.**

(2) The persons under heads (i) and (ii) of clause (1) above shall be nominated by the committees concerned in accordance with a rota approved by the council **and include no fewer than six lay persons.**

(3) [*unchanged*]

(4) The committee, ~~in consultation with the Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee,~~ shall appoint one or more local **student** oversight committees of at least seven people for each training institution. ~~Where appropriate the same local committee may be appointed in relation to two or more other training institutions. If a course of training approved under Standing Order 722 is attached to a theological college the oversight committee of the college shall have jurisdiction over student presbyters and deacons following that course.~~

(5)(a) The committee, ~~in consultation with the Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee,~~ shall co-ordinate and guide the work of the oversight tutors of the training institutions in so far as it relates to the oversight of student presbyters and deacons. The oversight tutors shall ensure that reports and other services for the connexional and local committees are provided as required.

(b) For every training institution, whether under the authority of the Conference or otherwise, the Conference shall appoint, upon the nomination of the Methodist Council, one or more oversight tutors to assist the local **student** and connexional oversight committees in performing the functions specified in Standing Orders. Where more than one oversight tutor is appointed for the same institution one shall be identified as having oversight responsibility
[....]

~~**326 Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.**—(1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a connexional Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.—(2) Reporting to the Ministries Committee as provided in Standing Order 32A1 the committee shall be responsible for the recruitment of candidates for the diaconate, the administration of the regulations for candidates, and decisions about training requirements. It shall have oversight of the whole period of a person's training from acceptance as a candidate by the Conference until reception into Full Connexion and ordination.—See Section 72.—(3) The committee shall recommend to the Conference Diaconal Committee the names of the diaconal probationers to be received into Full Connexion.~~

030 Scope of Section.

(3) For the purposes of this Section the oversight committees concerned are:

- (i) for presbyteral **and diaconal** students the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the local oversight committee appointed under Standing Order 321(4);
- (ii) for diaconal students the ~~Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the local oversight committee appointed under Standing Order 321(4);~~
- (iii) for presbyteral **and diaconal** probationers, including those who are in part-time circuit appointments, the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the district Probationers Committee; and
- (iv) for diaconal probationers the ~~Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee and the district Probationers Committee.~~

32A0 Ministries Committee [....]

(2) In appointing the committee the Conference shall ensure that as far as possible the members of the committee between them represent the interests of:

- (i) the ordained and lay ministries and offices of the Church, including local preachers and stewards;
- (ii) the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates **Selection Committee** and **the Ministerial Candidates and** Probationers Oversight Committees and the Stationing Committee. [....]

321A1 [....]

(3) The committee may, in consultation with the Methodist Council, report to the Conference on matters of policy or process requiring the attention of the Conference that have been identified by the committee or by the **Ministerial** Candidates Selection Committee, the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees, the Stationing Advisory Committee or the Stationing Committee. [....]

365 [...]

(7) Payment may also be made out of the fund at the discretion of the council or of any committee or officer to which the council may delegate this discretion:

[...]

(ii) in accordance with any recommendation of the Stationing Advisory Committee or the connexional ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee under Standing Order 774(6); [...]

453 Meetings. The committee shall meet when required and not later than the date determined by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees.

484 [...]

(3) A deacon nominated by the ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee shall have the right to attend the committee when a diaconal probationer is being discussed and to speak, but not to vote.

495 Ordination (1) [...]

(d) Before the meeting of the Presbyteral Session the district Probationers Committee shall consult the connexional ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, [...]

710 Qualifications [...]

(6) The connexional ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [...]

711 Initial Procedure.

(1) [...]~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees. [...]

(4) The candidate shall, not later than the date determined by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees, [...].

712 District Candidates Committee.

(1) The district Candidates Committee shall meet not later than the date determined by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [...]

(2) [...]~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees. [...]

713 Connexional Committees

(2) The committee shall meet on or before the date determined by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees as a whole or in two or more sections. Where the committee meets in sections, each section may act on behalf of the whole committee.

718 Change of Order of Ministry [...]

(6) The candidate shall arrange for the provision of such other information as is directed by the ~~relevant~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, including [...]

721 Length and Form of Pre-ordination Training and Probation. (1) The length and form of pre-ordination training and probation for each accepted candidate shall be determined by the

Presbyteral Session of the Conference or Conference Diaconal Committee, ~~as the case may be~~, as appropriate on the recommendation of the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee. ~~or Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [....]~~

722 Pre-ordination training [....]

- (3) The connexional allocations panel, acting under the oversight of the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, [....]
- (4) The ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee ~~and Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee~~ shall [....]
- (5) The ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee ~~and Diaconal Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee~~ shall ensure that the relevant training institution [....]

723 Probationers' Appointments. (1) [....] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees.

- (2) [....]
- (c) [....] the ~~relevant~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.
- (d) [....] the ~~relevant~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, [....]
- (3) [....]
- (b) [....] to the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee for approval. [....]
- (d) [....] the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee respectively. [....]

724 Probation.

- (1) The ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [....]
- (3) [....]
- (i) [....] the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees ~~respectively~~; (ii) receives formal supervision of his or her work for a number of hours specified by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees; [....]
- (4) [....] the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [....]

725 Oversight of Pre-ordination Training and Probation.

- (1) The ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [....]
- (2) Such oversight shall include elements of both pastoral support and assessment. To this end, the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees shall coordinate and guide the work of ~~local~~ **student** oversight committees appointed for training institutions **and theological colleges** and, [....]
- (3)(c) [....] the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [....]
- (4) [....]
- (e) [....] the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [....]
- (5) [....]
- (d) [....] the ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [....]

726 Deferment or Suspension of Probation.

(1) A student presbyter, student deacon or probationer may, on any of the grounds specified in clause (3) below, apply to the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, ~~as the case may be, [...]~~

(6) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, [...]

727 Withdrawal from Training.

(1) [...] (who shall be members of the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, ~~as the case may be~~) appointed by the convener [...]

(2) [...] the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, [...]

(3) [...] The ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

728 Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination: Presbyters.

(1) [...]

(b) [...] the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

(4) [...] the ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...].

(5) (a) The ~~Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Committee [...]

728A Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination: Deacons.

(1) [...]

(d) [...] the ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee.

(e) The ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

(3) Before the Conference, the ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

(4) (a) The ~~Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

729 Ministers Assisting at Ordinations. [...]

(2) No person shall be invited to assist under head (ii) of clause (1) above unless the ~~connexional Presbyteral~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

730 Ministerial Transfer between Churches [...]

(5) The Team member shall also:

(i) require the applicant, not later than the date determined by the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees, [...]

761 Reinstatement as a Presbyter, Deacon, Probationer, Student or Local Preacher [...]

(11) [...] (i) [...] (iii) a report from the ~~appropriate~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee';

(12) [...] the ~~appropriate~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

772 Residence Abroad.

[...] (6) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committees [...]

773 Permission to Study.

(1) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, ~~as the case may be~~, shall be consulted. [...]

774 Ministers without Appointment. [...]

- (3) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, as the case may be, [...]
- (6) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, as appropriate, [...]

781 Initial Deployment and Subsequent Review. (1) [...]

- (b) [...] the ~~Presbyteral and Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Probationers Oversight Committees in consultation with the Stationing Advisory Committee. [...]
- (3) [...] the ~~Presbyteral or Diaconal~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee [...]

802 Remuneration of Part-time Chaplaincies and Other Work. [...]

- (4) [...] the ~~appropriate connexional~~ **Ministerial** Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee. [...]

SECTION M

SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY PANEL

Report

The 2014 Conference directed the Safeguarding Advisory Panel to review its terms of reference with specific attention to its membership, decision making powers and the process for appeals. The Law and Polity Committee has assisted the Panel in its review and Standing Order amendments are proposed below.

The Law and Polity Committee will continue to work with the Panel on the appeals process over the next year with a view to bringing any Standing Order amendments to the 2016 Conference.

***RESOLUTIONS

41/7. The Conference adopted the Report.

41/8. The Conference amended Standing Orders as follows:

232 Safeguarding Advisory Panel Committee (1) The Methodist Council shall annually appoint a ~~panel~~ **committee** of persons consisting of a ~~convener~~ **chair** and up to eighteen other persons, to be known as the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee**, with the functions set out in clause (2) below. The members of the ~~panel~~ **committee** shall all be members of the Methodist Church and shall include:

- (i) [...]
- (ii) [...]

(1A) For the purposes of this Standing Order:

- (i) [...]
- (ii) 'the safeguarding officer' means the person **or one of the persons** in the Connexional Team responsible for issues relating to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

(2) The functions of the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** shall be:

- (i) to ~~consider and advise~~ **give directions to and offer guidance on the steps to be taken by the relevant appointing body** the safeguarding officer in respect of any disclosure or any related matter or application ~~for the purpose of enabling the safeguarding officer to make recommendations to the relevant appointing body about the steps to be taken following that disclosure;~~

- (iA) to determine any appeal brought by a person dissatisfied with a ~~recommendation~~ **direction** made in respect of any disclosure or other matter as mentioned in sub-clause (i) above;
- (ii) to make recommendations to the Secretary of the Conference as to the action to be taken in respect of any minister, local preacher or member of the Church who, pursuant to the Church's policy for safeguarding children, ~~and young people~~ **and vulnerable adults**, signs a form in which he or she declares a conviction or caution in respect of an offence of the kind specified in sub-clause (i) or (ii) of Standing Order 010(2);
- (iii) [...]
- (iiiA) [...]
- (iiiB) [...]
- (iiiC) [...]
- (iv) [...]
- (v) to be available for consultation by those members of the Connexional Team whose responsibilities include the Church's policy for safeguarding children ~~and young people~~ **and vulnerable adults**.

(3) The ~~convener~~ **chair** of the ~~panel~~ **committee** shall nominate such members of the ~~panel~~ committee (including himself or herself but not being fewer than three in number) as he or she thinks fit to **be the panel to** make any determination or recommendation in discharge of the ~~panel's~~ **committee's** functions set out in sub-clauses (ii) to (iv) of clause (2) above. ~~Where advice~~ **For the purpose of giving directions or advice** under clause (2)(i) above ~~is required~~, the safeguarding officer shall convene a ~~group panel~~ of not fewer than three members of the ~~panel~~ **committee** having regard to the expertise required in the particular case.

(3A) (a) When discharging the functions specified under clause (2)(i) and (ii) to (iv) above, the ~~group panel~~ nominated shall contain two persons referred to in clause (1)(i) and one person referred to in clause (1)(ii).

(b) When discharging the functions specified under clause (2)(iA) above the ~~group panel~~ nominated shall contain one person referred to in clause (1)(i) and two persons referred to in clause (1)(ii) one of whom shall be a former President or Vice-President, who shall chair the ~~group panel~~. No member of the ~~group panel~~ shall have been involved in making the ~~direction recommendation or determination~~ which is the subject of the appeal.

(c) Requests for consultation by members of the Connexional Team under clause (2)(v) above shall be made to the ~~convener~~ **chair** in the first instance.

(4) (a) For the purpose of carrying out ~~these~~ **its** functions **under clause (2)(i) to (iv)**, ~~the relevant members of the~~ **a nominated** panel (~~who~~ **the members of which** shall as far as possible act together) shall ~~may~~ make such inquiries, meet such persons and obtain such expert advice in each individual case as the ~~relevant members panel~~ **panel** shall think fit.

(b) If the panel judges that a risk assessment is desirable for the carrying out of its function, it may appoint a suitably qualified assessor to conduct that assessment.

(c) A panel may choose to hold any meeting by telephone if so agreed by all members of the panel.

(5) The ~~panel~~ **committee** shall report to the next ensuing Conference each determination or recommendation made under clause (2)(iA) to (iv) above. [...]

(6) In addition to any report under clause (5) above, the ~~convener~~ **chair** shall make a general report to the Conference [...]

010 Qualification for Appointment

(5) (a) If a church court or other appointing body wishes

- (i) [...]
- (ii) [...],

the secretary or convener of the body concerned may request the Secretary of the Conference to refer the proposed permission or appointment to ~~the Safeguarding Advisory Panel~~ **the safeguarding**

officer as defined ~~appointed under~~ **in** Standing Order 232(1A). Any such request shall be accompanied by a written statement of the reasons for which it is made.

(b) On receiving such a request, the Secretary of the Conference shall refer it to the ~~convener of the Safeguarding Advisory Panel,~~ **safeguarding officer** who shall arrange for the determination of the reference **by the Safeguarding Committee** in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 232. [...]

(c) No such authorisation shall be given unless the nominated members of the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** are satisfied that:

(i) [...]

(ii) [...]

(d) [...] the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** and the procedure set out in sub-clauses (a) and (b) above shall be followed. No authorisation to employ shall be given unless the nominated members of the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** are satisfied as set out in clause (c)(i) above and that the entry into the contract will not expose children, young people or vulnerable adults to the risk of harm.

013 Suspension (3) (d) Where the power given by sub-clause (a) above is exercised on the ground that a safeguarding issue has arisen, the responsible officer shall immediately refer the matter to the safeguarding officer (as defined in Standing Order 232(1A)), who may offer advice or refer the matter to the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** for its advice, **direction or** ~~and~~ recommendations.

013C Safeguarding and the Exercise of Office.

(2) In order to discharge that responsibility the Secretary of the Conference may, on a recommendation to that effect of the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** made under Standing Order 232(2)(iiiC), [...]

(3) A direction under clause (2) above shall be given in writing and shall be accompanied by a copy of the recommendation made by the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** and any additional grounds [...]

(8) Subject to clause (9) below, whether or not the directed person has appealed to the Pastoral Committee, he or she may apply to the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** for a review of the recommendation on the basis of which the relevant direction was made. Any such review shall take the form of a complete reconsideration of the reasons for which the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** concluded that a safeguarding risk existed in respect of the directed person and of any new material relevant to the question whether such a risk continues to exist, and the members of the ~~Panel~~ **committee** conducting the review shall not have been involved in making the original recommendation or (unless a review could not otherwise take place) in conducting a previous review. On review the ~~Panel~~ **committee** may decide to make the same recommendation as was previously made, to make a different recommendation or to make no recommendation. The decision of the ~~Panel~~ **committee**, together with its reasons, shall be communicated to the directed person in writing.

(9) [...] the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** on a previous application for review was notified to the directed person.

(10) If on review the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** decides that the previous recommendation should be varied, it shall immediately so inform the Secretary of the Conference, who shall withdraw the existing direction but (subject to clause (3) above) may make a new direction in place of the existing direction if the ~~Panel~~ **committee** so recommends.

(11) If on review the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** decides that the previous recommendation [...]

713 Connexional Committees (7A) [...] the Safeguarding ~~Advisory Panel~~ **Committee** for its advice and recommendations.

725 Oversight of Pre-ordination Training and Probation (6) [...] the Safeguarding Advisory Panel **Committee** for its advice and recommendations.

761 Reinstatement as a Presbyter, Deacon, Probationer, Student or Local Preacher. (15) [...] the Safeguarding Advisory Panel **Committee** for its advice and recommendations.

1102 General Matters (9) [...] the Safeguarding Advisory Panel **Committee** for its advice and recommendations. The relevant connexional Team member must be informed of the referral.

(10) The Safeguarding Advisory Panel **Committee**, on a referral to it of any matter under clause (9) above [...]

(11) Where clause (9) above applies, the person or body making the referral shall determine, having received the advice of the safeguarding officer or the Safeguarding Advisory Panel **Committee** on the point, as the case may be, whether the investigation of the complaint or the pursuit of the charge can continue while the matter is under consideration or investigation by the safeguarding officer or the **Panel committee** or whether the investigation or pursuit must cease for the time being. In the latter case, the time limits contained in this Part shall, to the extent necessary, be suspended.

SECTION N

CHAIRS IN THE SCOTLAND AND SHETLAND DISTRICTS

Report

The report on arrangements for the District Chairs in the Scotland District and the Shetland District (Agenda item 19) recommends that the District Chair of the Scotland District be also appointed as the Chair of the Shetland District and that a deputy Chair be appointed to the Shetland District, who shall also be the Superintendent of the Shetland Circuit. Should the Conference adopt the Standing Order amendments proposed in resolution 19/3 there are some consequential amendments to Standing Order 545 which are set out below.

545 Extensions: Presbyteral Appointments

(2) Subject to Standing Order 547, at a Circuit Meeting in the fifth year of a presbyter's service in the Circuit the invitation **or deemed invitation** may be extended for a specified number of years, not exceeding five.

(3) If a presbyter's initial invitation **or deemed invitation** has been extended under clause (2) above or this clause and is open to further extension as provided in clause (3B) below, then at a Circuit Meeting in the last year of the current period of invitation the invitation may be extended for a specified number of further years, not exceeding five.

(3A) Any Circuit Meeting to consider extending an invitation **or deemed invitation** under clause (2) or (3) above shall be held on or before the 20th September.

(3B) *No change*

(3C) Prior to any Circuit Meeting where the extension of an invitation **or deemed invitation** is to be considered, the circuit stewards shall ensure that appropriate consultations take place according to guidance issued from time to time on behalf of the Conference.

[.....]

(4) (a) Whenever the question is under consideration of the extension or expiration of the period of invitation **or deemed invitation** of a Superintendent, the Chair of the District shall be invited to be present or represented. The Chair of the District or his or her representative shall have the right to take the chair.

(b) [...]

*****RESOLUTIONS**

41/9. The Conference adopted the Report.

41/10. The Conference amended Standing Order 545 as set out in the Report.

REPORT 66 REPORT OF THE LAW AND POLITY CONFERENCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Law and Polity Sub-committee proposed the following Resolutions under Standing Order 131(25):

***** RESOLUTIONS**

66/1. By way of consequential provision the Conference amended Standing Order 417(5) by deleting the existing text and substituting the following:

(5) The district representatives shall meet the Chair at least once before the date of the Conference at a briefing meeting which shall:

(i) cover the procedures and ways of working of the Conference;

(ii) include agenda information on major items of business; and

the meeting shall be held sufficiently in advance of the Conference to facilitate attendance and other members of the Conference resident or stationed in the District shall be invited to attend.

66/2. For the better achievement of its intention the Conference amended the new Standing Order 512B(10) by deleting the last sentence of the existing text at p37 of the Order Paper and substituting the following:

The old Circuit Meeting shall be treated as remaining in existence solely for the purpose of holding such a meeting and deciding whether or not to apply to withdraw the direction. The membership of the old Circuit Meeting for this purpose shall consist of the persons who constituted the members of the Circuit Meeting immediately prior to the making of the direction.

66/3. For the better achievement of its intention the Conference amended the new Standing Order 611A(10) by deleting the last sentence of the existing text at p38 of the Order Paper and substituting the following:

The old Church Council shall be treated as remaining in existence solely for the purpose of holding such a meeting and deciding whether or not to apply to withdraw the direction. The membership of the old Church Council for this purpose shall consist of the persons who constituted the members of the Church Council immediately prior to the making of the direction.

66/4. For the better achievement of its intention the Conference amended the following new Standing Orders:

806(8) The provisions in Standing Order 807A, 807B, 807C and 807D are intended to reflect as closely as possible the statutory provisions for maternity and paternity leave, shared parental leave and adoption leave applicable to employed person and should be interpreted to reflect this intention.

SO 512B(6)(i) replacing (9) with (10)

512B(7) replacing 'consist of the members' with 'consist of the persons'

512B(11) replacing 'members who constituted the membership of the Circuit Meeting prior to the making of the direction and so that any members' with 'persons who constituted the membership of the Circuit Meeting prior to the making of the direction and so that any persons'

SO 611A(6)(i) replacing **(9)** with **(10)**

SO 611A(11) replacing *'members who constituted the membership of the Church Council prior to the making of the direction and so that any members'* with *'persons who constituted the membership of the Church Council prior to the making of the direction and so that any persons'*

Note.¹

66/5. The Conference delegated to the Methodist Council the making of any outstanding appointments and the completing of any outstanding business required to be made or done by the Conference of 2015, and directed that any such actions be reported to the Conference of 2016.

¹ The Standing Order amendments made in resolution 66/2, 66/3 and 66/4 are incorporated into reports 17 and 41 available on the website.