

44. Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee

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1. This has been the first year of a single Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee (MCPOC) serving those in training for both orders of ministry. The committee wishes to record its thanks in particular to the leadership of the Methodist Diaconal Order in enabling this to happen smoothly.
2. However, the committee notes that there is still some work to be done to clarify the relationship between the Order's own processes in preparing and assessing probationers for full membership of the Order and the work of District Probationers' Committees and MCPOC in assessing their readiness for ordination. The committee intends to review its processes over the next few months and to ask the Ministries Committee to report to the Council if changes are needed to the Standing Order, remembering that the Faith and Order Committee is currently undertaking work on the Diaconal Order.
3. Under Standing Order 312(4) the committee has appointed two oversight committees for students at the Queen's Foundation: one has responsibility for those in full-time, residential training, and the other for those on the part-time Queen's Connexional Course. The committee notes that the 2015 Conference agreed to change the name of these committees from Local to Student and that this means that the membership needs to be drawn from across the Connexion and not simply from those in the proximity of Birmingham. The committee records its thanks to the Revd John Howard for his work in chairing the committee for full-time students as he steps down from that responsibility.
4. The report from the Candidates' Selection Committee informed MCPOC of the resignation of the two Connexional Psychologists, Ms Carol Jayes and Ms Debra Harris. MCPOC has agreed a series of changes to the way in which candidates are assessed by a psychotherapist prior to appearing before the Ministerial Candidates' Selection Committee (MCSC). It will report on these to the Ministries Committee and work with the Law and Polity Committee on any necessary changes to Standing Orders to bring a fuller report to the 2017 Conference.
5. Mrs Rosemary Harrison has served as the deputy chair of MCPOC during this year (having previously been chair of the Diaconal Candidates and Probationers' Oversight Committee) and has chaired many of the panels that have met with students and probationers. The members of MCPOC would wish publicly to acknowledge a debt of thanks to Mrs Harrison for her careful, effective, and pastorally sensitive work.

***RESOLUTION

44/1. The Conference received the Report.