

64. Additional Reports

REPORT FROM THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

PRESIDENTIAL INQUIRIES

The Ministerial Session of the Conference had a general discussion about Presidential Inquiries. The session noted that there are no set procedures for Presidential Inquiries and that there can be confusion between Presidential Inquiries and the disciplinary procedures of the church. The session also notes that under current Standing Orders there is no provision for there to be a connexional medical adviser who can make contact with the doctor of someone absent with illness, not least with stress or with a prolonged illness and offer appropriate advice. This latter defect has caused considerable difficulty in a number of circuits.

The Ministerial Session therefore recommends to the Representative Session that it direct the Methodist Council to appoint a small group to consider the issues which have arisen in recent years especially in the circuits in relation to Presidential Inquiries, the prolonged illness of ministers and lay workers, and the constraints of employment law; and to report to the Conference of 2010.

The Conference adopted the report.

REPORT FROM THE CLOSED SESSION

On Monday, in closed session, the Conference considered the report of a Committee of Reference. After a careful and wide-ranging discussion the Conference considered that the issues of principle involved should be brought before the Conference in open session and reported in the Record as matters requiring renewed and urgent consideration. These issues concerned the interchangeability of Ordained Ministries, Reciprocal Arrangements for Licensing Specific Ministries, a Liturgy of Reconciliation, and Episcopal Ordination. The Conference asked the Faith and Order Committee and the Joint Implementation Commission to pursue these matters further.

The Conference adopted the Report.