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CPD Part 9 details the various requirements for property and includes the following sections:

- Sec 90 Introductory and Interpretation
- Sec 91 Administration of Trusts
- Sec 92 Use of Methodist premises
- Sec 93 Projects
- Sec 94 The Local Church
- Sec 95 The Circuit
- Sec 96 The District
- Sec 97 Connexional Priority Fund
- Sec 98 Listed Building works
- Sec 99 Property Development Committee.

We have not reproduced part 9 here due to its fluid nature and the ability of CPD to be amended. Clicking through the link above or turning to page 631 of Volume 2 of the 2018 Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church will give required details.

For the DPS, Sec 96 is important and contain the following standing orders:

- 960 Appropriate District Authority
- 961 Projects
- 962 Development Plan
- 963 Advance Funds
- 964 Supervision of Circuit Meetings
- 965 Manses
- 966 District Property

However, the whole of Part 9 repays careful study because the clauses are interdependent. The district consent links with that of the circuit and any Connexional requirements.

At the very least, close collaboration is required with the Chair and others appointed in the scrutiny of schemes. Some Chairs will be able to give more attention to property matters than others.

It will be clear that much discussion about a scheme will go on between the local church and circuit before any Project is logged onto the Consents website but, in addition, each church is encouraged to consult with the District officers about the mission and technical aspects of the project. This is a vital, formative stage in any scheme; the District officers should be seen as a resource to be used. The notification on the Consents website may come later as the formal submission of the scheme.

The Connexional property team hopes that property related matters will not be left solely to the district officers. In some districts a property advisory panel meets regularly, and this enables the district to assemble an experienced body - architects, surveyors, accountants etc., able to pass a reasoned judgement on sketch proposals, financial arrangements and policy aspects. The Connexional team is also a valuable source of guidance (SO 303).

Where there is a major scheme for which grant application will be necessary, perhaps to the Rank Trust or other grant providers, Connexional Property Grants or the Priority Fund or District Advance Fund, or

where other circuits will be encouraged to 'port' from their Circuit Model Trust Funds, the judgement of the property advisory panel will be passed on to the policy committee itself.

Within other parts of CPD there are specific references to responsibilities in relation to property – Part 4 to property matters within Districts, Part 5 to property matters within the Circuits, and Part 9 to provide for the general exercise within the District of very significant functions in relation to property projects of Circuits and Local Churches, and therefore Part 9 should always be consulted. See in particular the definition of 'the appropriate district authority' in SO 960(1).

Extracts from Parts 4 and 5 are included for reference. However, it is recommended that the full CPD should be checked after post-Conference publication to ensure relevant updates have been considered.

Part 4 – THE DISTRICTS

470 Responsibilities

The Synod shall appoint a secretary or secretaries for property for the matters specified in Standing Orders 472, 473 and 474 and in Section 96.

See S.O. 961(2), 964, 966.

471 Advisory Panel

The Synod may appoint an advisory panel of persons qualified and experienced in property matters, estate management, town planning, administration or building design, to be consulted as desired.

472 Manses

The Synod shall appoint a district Manses Committee

See S.O. 965, 802, 803.

473 Archives

The Synod shall appoint a district archivist.

474 New Chapels

The district property secretaries shall call for and consider reports on the progress of the work and the state of the structure of those chapels within the District which have been opened ... within the previous five years

475 Scotland

The General Committee of the Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

Part 5 – THE CIRCUITS

Section 53 The Circuit Stewards

530 Appointment

The Circuit Meeting shall annually appoint as circuit stewards two or more persons who are members in the Circuit or supernumeraries stationed there.

531 Responsibilities

The circuit stewards are responsible, with the Superintendent and the ministers and probationers appointed to the Circuit, for the spiritual and material well-being of the Circuit, and for upholding and acting upon the decisions of the Circuit Meeting. (See also SO 532 to 534, 540, 552 and 610).

532 Circuit Fund

The Circuit stewards are the treasurers of the circuit fund.

533 Manses

The circuit stewards shall be responsible for the interior decoration, furnishing and energy efficiency of the manses. For minimum furnishing requirements see S.O. 803(5).

As to energy efficiency see also the guidance in Book VII A, Parts 1 and 2. The Conference of 2010 directed that Circuits should endeavour to use model trust money to put in place these high standards of energy efficiency. It also directed that Circuits should endeavour to provide smart meter devices to enable ministers to control their electricity use.