

Report from the Strategy and Resources Committee (SRC)

Contact name and details	Dr Daleep S Mukarji, Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee daleepmukarji@googlemail.com
Resolutions	See end of the report

The SRC met on 30 April 2019 and reports the following matters to the Council:

1. The SRC discussed ideas presented by the Chair of the Connexional Grants Committee (CGC) and the Connexional Secretary about a new way forward regarding the distribution of connexional grants. It noted that, in pursuing the work on Evangelism and Growth, a significant investment will need to be made in missional work which will require a transformation of the funding process. There will need to be more local dispersal using the *Our Calling* priorities as the guidelines, and the creation of an *Our Calling* transformation fund. The Committee agreed that these ideas be taken forward over the next 12-24 months.
2. In response to a report from the Stationing Committee, the SRC supported the proposal that the money from the Connexional Priority Fund ("*Our Calling* Transformation Fund") could be used to fund ministerial appointments in the more deprived areas of the Connexion and directed the CGC to deal with these requests.
3. The SRC received a further detailed report from the Director of Evangelism and Growth on the applications from districts for funding towards projects as part of the connexional response to *Our Calling*. Twenty district projects have been funded at a total cost of £1,555,715. The committee agreed that the remaining balance (£44,285) be made available for small (£500-£2500) "kick-starter" grants to support the initial testing/prototype phase of new projects aligned with *Our Calling*.
4. The SRC approved a draft partnership agreement with The Queen's Foundation subject to some corrections. The final Partnership Agreement was subsequently received at the September SRC meeting (after it had been received by the Ministries Committee in May). The SRC proposes that the mechanism for oversight in this area by the Council be an annual meeting of the representatives of The Queen's Foundation Governors with two members of the SRC along with a senior member of the Connexional Team and the Principal and other staff members at Queen's. The Secretary of the Conference will work on the detailed terms of reference of this group. The Council is asked to approve the attached Partnership Agreement, on the recommendation of the SRC and the Ministries Committee.
5. The SRC had a detailed discussion about the other training institutions. It directed the Secretary of the Conference and the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Ministries Committee, to identify the areas of work required by the Connexion for the development of theological educators, for the ongoing needs for pastoral supervision and for the continued development of ministers, and to develop a strategy for how this work may be delivered.
6. The SRC received updates on the connexional property projects and finance, including Camden Town Methodist Church. Under the authorisation of the Methodist Council (October 2018), it approved the funding arrangements for the redevelopment of Oxford Place, Leeds.
7. The SRC approved recommendations from the Finance Sub-committee [SRC/19/21] regarding the Royal London proposed Group Personal Pension Plan for employees of the Methodist Council and other Methodist Employers. The recommendations included due consideration of ethical

considerations of the proposed new Defined Contribution Pension Scheme to best serve the ethical respects of members of the scheme.

- (a) The SRC recommends to the Council a *Standard Balances Lifestyle* option as an investment default option to which members' contributions will automatically be allocated, with optional fund substitution to improve ethical performance if desired.
- (b) The SRC recommends to the Council the appointment of Epworth as its regulated adviser.

8. The SRC agreed that the budget for 3Generate for 2020-23 be increased to accommodate the additional cost of an alternative venue.
9. The SRC received an update on the ONE Programme Participant Scheme and agreed the scheme should remain broadly unchanged, with some adaptations for enhancing the programme, increasing opportunities for young people to serve the wider Methodist Church.

The SRC met on 18 September 2019 and reports the following matters to the Council:

1. The Committee engaged in a discussion about its remit and its ways of working set in a context of the challenges and risks that face the Church. The Committee wished to emphasise its role in relation to assisting and advising the Council in fulfilling its responsibilities for the strategic oversight and use of resources within the overarching vision of the Church to reaffirm *Our Calling*. It considered other roles given to it by SO 213 and how it would go about its tasks in the coming year.
2. The Committee received an update in relation to the work being done to agree a Service Level Agreement with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, and agreed some of the principles to be followed in negotiating an agreement. It hopes to be able to receive the final draft of an agreement at its November meeting.
3. The Committee endorsed the principle that supervision for ordained members of the Connexional Team should be undertaken on a non-hierarchical basis by external supervisors who are not their line managers. The Committee considered the supervision of lay people in pastoral roles, following the Council's discussion of this in April. The Committee agreed that, while it seems clear that those lay people who have pastoral responsibilities akin to those of a presbyter or deacon need to be in supervision, there is not much appetite for other lay roles to be in supervision. The SRC emphasised the need for it to be proportionate and sensitive to the role concerned (particularly where volunteers are concerned) and this will be reported to the Supervision Reference Group which will consider the detail of the proposals again.
4. The Committee received a report concerning the university costs and funding for children of ministers stationed within the British Connexion but outside the United Kingdom. This was in response to an issue raised by previous reports of the Connexional Allowances Committee which explained that some student children of ministers may be ineligible for funding due to the residency rules in some jurisdictions. The SRC, having conducted further investigations into this, now recommends that the Stationing Committee alert ministers to this issue at the point of being matched to an appointment, and that discretionary funding is made available where it is needed on a case by case basis. The resolutions below relate to this point.
5. The Committee received update reports from significant property projects which are being overseen by the Property Development Committee, namely Camden Town Methodist Church and Oxford Place Leeds. Separately it received a progress report from the Methodist Church House Building Project Sub-committee of the SRC.

*****RESOLUTIONS**

71/1. The Council receives the report.

71/2. The Council approves the attached Partnership Agreement with The Queen's Foundation.

71/3. The Council adopts the recommendations from the Strategy and Resources Committee regarding the Royal London proposed Group Personal Pension Plan for employees of the Methodist Council and other Methodist employers, as follows:

- (a) A *Standard Balances Lifestyle* option as an investment default option to which members' contributions will automatically be allocated, with optional fund substitution to improve ethical performance if desired;**
- (b) The appointment of Epworth as its regulated advisor.**

71/4. The Council directs that a grant (and/or a loan if appropriate) be made available for university funding for the children of ministers who are significantly financially disadvantaged as a consequence of being resident in non-UK jurisdictions.

71/5. The Council directs that the Connexional Allowances Committee be given discretionary authority to agree the grants figure for university funding for the children of ministers, taking into account the minister's circumstances and the university funding arrangements at the time.

71/6. The Council directs that, as these are benevolent grants to ministers who require assistance, they should be funded from the Fund for the Support of Presbyters and Deacons (or other funds should that be appropriate).

The Queen's Foundation Partnership Agreement

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Between the Methodist Council and the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham

Interpretations

The Methodist Conference – the supreme decision making body of the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Council - appointed under Standing Order 210 to act on behalf of the Conference.

SRC - the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Methodist Council, appointed under SO 213

Standing Orders (SO) – are the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church as set out in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

Ministerial Candidates Selection Committee – a committee annually appointed by the Methodist Conference under SO 320(1)

Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee – a committee annually appointed by the Methodist Council under SO 321(1).

Student oversight committee – a committee appointed by the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee (MCPOC) under SO 321(4) to oversee the formation of students within a learning institution and to report to MCPOC.

Oversight Tutor – appointed by the Methodist Conference to have responsibility on behalf of the relevant oversight committees for the formation, discipline and pastoral care of students and to carry out specific duties within Standing Orders.

1. General

1.1 Strategic Intent

This Partnership Agreement relates to the mutual partnership and co-operation between the Methodist Council and the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education, Birmingham following the decision of the Methodist Conference in 2012 to establish two connexional centres at the Queen's Foundation and Cliff College. It follows a previous Partnership Agreement and builds upon the development of the partnership over a 5 year period.

The intention of this Partnership Agreement is to set out clearly the way we are working together in order to provide the means by which we may grow and develop in our on-going partnership and express a common commitment to theological education and ministry. This agreement is partly concerned with arrangements between the Methodist Council and the Queen's Foundation in relation to the provision of pre-ordination training for the Methodist Church. At the same time, the contribution of the Queen's Foundation to the life of the Methodist Church is multi-faceted and the agreement sets out ways of joint working aimed at enabling the partnership to fulfil the ambitions for a centre set out in paragraph 228 of the 2012 report, *The Fruitful Field*:

'The centres should be communities of faith which nurture and support a deep expertise in formation, learning, training, theological education, scholarship, research and development.

1. The centres should be able to provide a home and a gathering place for communities of students and learners (resident and visiting), guests and staff (teaching and research staff; administrative staff; domestic and maintenance staff; and visiting colleagues from across the Network); and should be able to provide residential hospitality for short and longer periods of time.
2. The centres (through their structures, resources and partnerships) should be able to connect with partners across the World Church.
3. The centres (through their structures, resources and partnerships) should be able to allow deep sharing with ecumenical partners.
4. The centres (through their structures, resources and partnerships) should be able to nurture apt and excellent scholarship and research, in partnership with the Higher Education sector.'

In committing ourselves to this Partnership Agreement the Methodist Council wishes to affirm its desire to respect and honour the traditions out of which the Queen's Foundation has grown and to recognise that this partnership is part of a wider network of partnerships with which the Methodist Council is engaged.

1.2 Context and History

This Partnership Agreement, therefore, builds on a long history of shared endeavour and mutual trust. For nearly 50 years the Methodist Church and the Queen's College (since 2000 the Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education) have been close partners. In 1970 the Queen's College and Handsworth College were amalgamated into a single ecumenical institution on the campus in Edgbaston, Birmingham. By Act of Parliament the Anglican ownership and control of Queen's was transferred to a representative ecumenical governing body. From that point on full time ministerial candidates and later, with the inception of the ecumenical West Midlands Ministry Training Course, part time candidates, have been prepared at Queen's for ordained ministry in both churches equally. The decisions of the Methodist Conference in 2012 resulted in a decision to choose Queen's as one of two Centres to resource and serve the Methodist Church. This decision valued and affirmed both the organic ecumenical character and vocation of Queen's and its good stewardship of the Methodist people's investment of resources in premises and assets as well as communities of faith.

In choosing two Centres (the Queen's Foundation and Cliff College) the Methodist Council committed to resourcing and sustaining them in ways that enable them to be places of excellence in which the Council can have confidence about the quality of their formational life, their scholarship and research, their teaching and learning, their hospitality, and their openness to and connections with the wider world Church. The Queen's Foundation, on its part, is committed to responding whole heartedly and creatively to play its full part in the life of the Methodist Church, especially in the formation and learning of the Methodist Church's ordained ministers. It does so as an ecumenical college, firmly committed to living out the Covenant partnership between the Methodist Church and the Church of England, forming and developing the churches' ministers, lay and ordained, within their respective denominational traditions, histories, and polities as well as in their respect and understanding of others. The growing presence and participation of Black Majority Churches enriches and blesses this process.

This Partnership Agreement is set in a theological context. The Methodist Council and the Queen's Foundation are members of the same body of Christ, co-workers in God's world in the praying for, seeking, anticipating and hastening of God's realm. Within the Body of Christ they are

interdependent, sharing one Spirit, bound in covenant relationships of *koinonia* and *shalom*. The Partnership Agreement, therefore, is preceded by convictions about and commitments to relationships that are shaped and characterised by fidelity, trust, mutuality, patience and that these are essential to the way the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities that are set out in the Partnership Agreement are exercised and fulfilled.

This Partnership Agreement builds on well established relationships and is set in a long term context, committing both parties to doing all that is necessary to sustain long term partnership relationships. The Partnership Agreement articulates the roles and responsibilities of both parties within the context of a commitment to an on-going process of critical review and development to build the life and work of the Methodist Church and of the Queen's Foundation and other partners in ways that are consistent with the vision of the Fruitful Field report and the will of the Methodist Conference.

The Queen's Foundation, in its vision statement, declares that it is dedicated to excellence in theological education and personal formation by:

- Nurturing and equipping Christians in their discipleship
- Preparing people for mission and ministry in lay and ordained roles
- Resourcing research that serves the mission of God in the world

We celebrate unity in diversity, in a community that is international, multi-cultural, and ecumenical. We aim to enable Christians to deepen their spiritual life, to grow in a faith that is generous, enquiring, deeply rooted and creative in thought and practice, and to be passionate for God's work in God's world.

The Queen's Foundation implements this vision through its work in and commitment to:

- forming and developing the churches' ministers in the Centre for Ministerial Formation
- forming and developing the churches' lay leaders and ordained ministers, especially probationers and curates in their early years of ministry, in the Centre for Continuing Ministerial Development
- being globally connected and engaged, through exchange programmes, partnerships with colleges and seminaries in the Global South, and being a place of hospitality for study and dialogue with scholars and students from the world-wide church
- nurturing the ministries and leadership of Christians of Black and Asian heritage, and especially those belonging to Black Majority Churches
- offering rigorous theological education for active discipleship in the Centre for Discipleship and Theology
- scholarship and research, especially through the provision of PhD programmes in partnership with the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

2. Responsibilities of each of the parties

2.1 The Methodist Council or the committee so charged with responsibility under Standing Orders is responsible for:

- (i) the selection of candidates for diaconal and presbyteral ministry, and the oversight of the whole period of a person's training from acceptance as a candidate by the Methodist Conference until reception into Full Connexion and ordination;
- (ii) the provision of guidelines and policies related to the formation of deacons and presbyters;
- (iii) contributing to the holistic oversight and governance of the Queen's Foundation; (iv) the provision of appropriate levels of financial and staff support, as set out in the Schedule 1 (the Financial Schedule), to enable the Queen's Foundation to fulfil the requirements of this Partnership Agreement;

- (iv) nominations to the Conference for the appointment of Oversight Tutor(s) by the Methodist Conference.

2.2 The Methodist Council or the committee so charged with responsibility under Standing Orders is responsible for:

- (i) allocating accepted candidates to an appropriate pathway for their pre-ordination learning and formation
- (ii) the oversight of student Presbyters and Deacons in their pre-ordination training in conjunction with the local oversight committee(s) for the Queen's Foundation;
- (iii) developing appropriate pathways, which meet the needs of the Church in its learning, formation and training;
- (iv) in accordance with the Financial Schedule (Schedule 1) agreed between the Methodist Council and the Queen's Foundation, the provision of suitable teaching accommodation, library, IT facilities and student support services in collaboration with partner churches;
- (v) participation in the ecumenical Quality in Formation Panel with the Church of England, scrutinising and approving new programmes, curriculum and modules of study prepared by the Queen's Foundation to support the work of initial ministerial training.

2.3 The Queen's Foundation is responsible for:

- (i) the admission of students accepted as candidates by the Methodist Conference to appropriate and agreed programmes of study;
- (ii) the development and delivery of appropriate, validated programmes, curriculum and modules for the formation of Methodist presbyters and deacons,;
- (iii) the provision of residential accommodation for Methodist students;
- (iv) the provision of tutorial, teaching and pastoral support for Methodist students;
- (v) fulfilling all quality assurance processes required by the Churches' Quality in Formation process;
- (vi) fulfilling all student registration and quality assurance processes required by its university validating partners;
- (vii) the appointment, in consultation with the Methodist Council or the body/person to whom the Methodist Council delegates this responsibility, of appropriately qualified staff as tutors or associate tutors for the delivery of programmes and modules delivered under this agreement.

3. Representation and Reporting

3.1 Mutual Representation

- (i) The partnership between the Queen's Foundation and the Methodist Council is expressed through the principle of mutual representation at a number of different levels. The Methodist Council or Chair of the relevant committee will agree as appropriate to the Principal and Director of Methodist Formation of the Queen's Foundation being members or non-voting consultants of appropriate committees of the Methodist Council in order to enable the partnership to develop.
- (ii) There will be clear lines of communication, mutual and shared development and decision making between both parties to this Partnership Agreement.
- (iii) The Methodist Church is represented on the Governing Body of the Queen's Foundation by the Methodist Council nominating two representatives to serve as governors. The Ministries Committee will make two nominations for co-opted governors following proposals from the Queen's Governing Body.

- (iv) Ideally, one of the appointees should be a serving Chair of District
- (v) A representative of the Ministries: Vocations and Worship Team (possibly the Director of Learning for Ministry) should be invited to attend the Governing Body meetings,
- (vi) There will be an invitation to the Methodist governors and the Principal to attend meetings of the Ministries Committee when the annual report from Queen's is discussed
- (vii) There will take place a regular (annual) of two members of the Strategy and Resources Committee of the Methodist Council and a senior member of the Connexional Team (the ASC or Head of Ministries) with the representatives of the governors and staff at Queen's (including the Principal). Part of the responsibility of that meeting will be to review the budget and to consider the financial statements and business plan submitted by the Queen's Foundation to the Office for Students. A report on that meeting will be made each year to the SRC.
- (viii) Any changes in the Partnership Agreement and Articles of the Queen's Foundation which affect the representation of the Methodist Council in the Governance structures of the Queen's Foundation will be made in consultation with the Methodist Council.

3.2 Accountability

The Queen's Foundation is accountable to the Methodist Council for the discharge of its duties in relation to this Partnership Agreement.

3.3 Reporting

- (i) The Queen's Foundation, through the Principal and the Director of Methodist Formation, will report annually to the Ministries Committee or as otherwise directed by the Methodist Council on all areas of its responsibilities detailed in the Partnership Agreement. This will include reports from the Queen's Foundation annual self-evaluation, University reviews, QAA evaluations and other reviews. Any such reports will be discussed with the Principal and Methodist Governors in attendance;
- (ii) The Principal of the Queen's Foundation shall receive copies of papers and minutes for the Ministries Committee and should be invited to be in attendance when significant items either involving Queen's or where the Principal's support and advice might be sought are being discussed;
- (iii) The Queen's Foundation through the Principal and Director of Methodist Formation will meet on a regular basis with the Director of Learning for Ministry and the Ministerial Coordinator for Oversight of Ordained Ministries on matters of mutual concern;
- (iv) Frances Young House – Frances Young House is a property leased to the Queen's Foundation by the Methodist Council for which the Property Development Committee of the Methodist Church acts as managing trustees. There is a net nil rent (or the agreed rent is paid by the Queen's Foundation and reimbursed by the Methodist Church). The terms of the lease specify the responsibilities of both parties and the ways in which the condition of the building will be maintained and monitored. The Queen's Foundation, through the Principal, will provide an annual report and update on Frances Young House for the Property Development Committee;
- (v) The Queen's Foundation through the Principal will report annually to the Global Relationships Committee (GRC) on its international work, strategy and partnerships, including its use of any grant funding provided by GRC. Any such reports will be discussed with the Principal and Methodist Governors in attendance;
- (vi) The Queen's Foundation will report as required in order to fulfil any other reasonable request from the Methodist Council.

4. Oversight

Oversight of the period of a student minister's initial education, formation and learning is shared between the Ministerial Candidates and Probationers Oversight Committee, the Oversight Tutor(s) and the local oversight committee in accordance with Standing Order 725.

5. Review of the Partnership Agreement

- (i) The revised Partnership Agreement shall commence on 1st September 2019 and proceed thereafter on a rolling basis from year to year until either party terminates it in accordance with clause 11. In the third year of this Partnership Agreement, and thereafter as agreed, but not more than five years after a previous review, a process of review will take place to revise, deepen and develop the agreement and the partnership between the Queen's Foundation and the Methodist Council.
- (ii) The Financial Schedule to the Partnership Agreement will be reviewed annually and agreed by the Methodist Council or the committee the Council so delegates it to and the Queen's Foundation Governors.
- (iii) Where possible, reviews should coincide with the Churches' Quality in Formation Panel's regular Periodic External Review of Queen's to minimise duplication of processes.

6. Data Protection

Each party shall ensure that it or any employee or representative is aware of and complies with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 or any similar or consolidating Act.

7. Insurance

The Queen's Foundation shall maintain in force insurances as are appropriate having regard to its obligations and liabilities connected with its partnership with the Methodist Council and shall provide to the Methodist Council, on request, evidence of such insurance.

8. Publicity

Any reference to the Methodist Church in publicity material issued by Queen's Foundation shall be subject to the scrutiny of the Director of Learning for Ministry. Any reference to the Queen's Foundation in publicity material issued by the Methodist Church shall be subject to the scrutiny of the Queen's Foundation.

9. Staffing

- 9.1 (i) The Principal and Governing Body of the Queen's Foundation is responsible for the employment of its own staff. The final decision over the appointment of staff resides with the Principal and Governing Body of the Queen's Foundation but, in making its decisions, the Principal and Governors will pay careful attention to the ecumenical balance and diversity of its Staff Team.
- (ii) Where the appointment of the Principal is concerned the Governors of the Queen's Foundation undertake to ensure the full participation of representatives of the Conference Office in any appointment process including on the appointment panel. If the Principal is a Methodist presbyter or deacon then any appointment will be by recommendation by the Queen's Governing Body to the Methodist Council, supported by a reasoned statement and would normally be for a period of 5 years subject to re-invitation.
- (iii) Where the appointment of the Director of Methodist Formation is concerned the Director of Learning for Ministry will be invited by the Principal to be a member of the appointing panel.
- (iv) Where an appointment is advertised for a Methodist Oversight Tutor, the Principal should consult with the Conference Office and include a representative of the Conference Office (normally the Director of Learning for Ministry) on the appointments panel. If a Methodist presbyter or deacon is appointed, such an appointment will be on the stations for an initial period of 5 years and subject to the approval of the Methodist Council for which a reasoned statement should be provided.
- (v) From time to time, there will be a number of appointments at Queen's, such as those involving a subject specialism, which are open to people from any denomination, lay or ordained. Where a Methodist presbyter or deacon wishes to apply for such a role, they should first approach the

Stationing Advisory Committee for permission. If successful in their application, they will be appointed to Queen's on the stations for an initial period of 5 years although such an appointment will not be subject to the approval of the Methodist Council. The job description should make this clear to any potential applicants.

- (vi) Methodist ministers on the stations are subject to the Methodist Church's overall policies as recommended by the Connexional Allowances Committee and adopted by the Conference. The Conference of 2018 agreed that ordained staff on the stations in training institutions have their allowance above stipend determined by the Remuneration Committee. It is recognised that there are a number of terms and conditions at Queen's which vary from standard terms and conditions for a Methodist presbyter or deacon (e.g. study leave, book allowance). The Remuneration Committee, in setting allowances for an ordained tutor, should pay close attention to these variations to ensure parity with other colleagues at Queens.
- (vii) All new appointments of Methodist presbyters and deacons will be subject to reinvitation. The re-invitation process for such roles would be led by the Principal and Governing Body whilst seeking appropriate feedback and input from the Conference Office.
- (viii) Methodist presbyters and deacons should receive a Letter of Understanding at the beginning of their period of service at Queen's, which may be revised from time to time by agreement.
- (ix) For the purposes of sabbaticals, the policy on study leave at Queen's should apply. In this respect, the sabbatical 'clock' will stop once a person enters service at Queen's and resumes when someone re-enters circuit ministry or an equivalent.

- 9.2 The Governing Body of the Queen's Foundation shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with any applicable UK or European employment legislation or directive related to its own staffing and shall be solely responsible for any liability arising there under and will indemnify the Methodist Council against any liability, loss or damage arising there under provided that any breach is not due to any negligence, act or omission of the Methodist Council or its representatives.

10. Student Welfare, Complaints and Discipline

- 10.1 Student welfare - the Queen's Foundation will be responsible for the welfare, health and safety of students when onsite at the Queen's Foundation and will use all reasonable endeavours to assist the Methodist Council in fulfilling such responsibilities as it has in this regard.
- 10.2 Student discipline will be the responsibility of the Queen's Foundation subject to their policies and procedures unless the complaint is brought under Part 11 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.
- 10.3 Any recommendation by the local oversight committee for discontinuance in training or a request by a student to withdraw from training shall be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders.

11. Provision for the termination of the Partnership Agreement

This Partnership Agreement may be terminated by a resolution of the Methodist Council, with at least 12 months' notice, to take effect at the end of the academic year.

This Partnership Agreement may be terminated by the Governors of the Queen's Foundation, with at least 12 months' notice, to take effect at the end of the academic year.

In the event of termination alternative agreement will be put in place to ensure each student enrolled on a programme is able to conclude their intended award, as required by the validating university.

Each party to this Partnership Agreement shall be responsible for their own costs which result from the termination of this Partnership Agreement.

12. Provision for arbitration in event of a dispute

In the event of any dispute over matters related to this Partnership Agreement, the Director of Learning for Ministry and the Principal of the Queen’s Foundation will jointly seek a resolution or, if unable to do so, will refer the matter to the Chair of the Methodist Council and the Chair of the Queen’s Foundation Governing Body who will jointly seek a resolution or if unable to do so will request that a suitable arbitrator is appointed.

13. Finance

Schedule 1 (the ‘Financial Schedule’) will be attached to this Partnership Agreement on an annual basis setting out the financial arrangements in respect of the services detailed in this Partnership Agreement. The Financial Schedule may be revised from time to time, with the agreement of both parties, to reflect any approved supplements and amendments to programmes or services.

14. Future development

In committing ourselves to this Partnership Agreement we affirm the value of the partnership between the Queen’s Foundation and the Methodist Council and to ongoing cooperation in line with our core objectives and mission strategy.

Signed:

Two Governors of the Queen’s Foundation

Date:

Two Members of the Methodist Council

Date:

SCHEDULE 1

FINANCIAL SCHEDULE 2019-20 to 2021-22

- A fee basis linked to the fee levels for undergraduate students (currently £9250). The Queen's Foundation currently has 73 FTE Methodist students – a combination of full-time, part-time and probationer students. In order to provide stability in the medium term, it is suggested that a nominal equivalent of 75 FTE Methodist students be used as a basis. This allows fluctuations both up and down, and for potential variations in undergraduate fee levels in the next 3 years, whilst enabling certainty for both partners in terms of overall funding.
 $£9250 \times 75 = £693,750$ p.a.
- A block grant of £200,000 p.a. (increased by 1% each year) to support institutional infrastructure costs (premises, staffing, academic management etc). There is no clear way of setting a figure of this kind fairly. However, as argued above, it is clear that the pressures upon a small institution working in the Higher Education sector are much greater than those upon larger institutions where the volume of students offsets other institutional costs. More positively, Queen's contributes significant wider value to the life of the Connexion than just through initial ministerial training. This needs to be recognised in some way. Moreover, historically institutions were supported through a combination of fees and block grants. Whilst the figure itself is relatively arbitrary – amounts both smaller and larger could be argued for – setting the figure at this level does maintain the overall contribution of the Connexion to Queen's at broadly the same level which in turn serves broader institutional stability.
- This generates the following figures:
2019-20 £893,750

2020-21 £902,688

2021-22 £911,715
- The figures above assume a stable Methodist academic staff team of 8 FTE.