

58. Methodist Church House (Methodist Centenary Hall Trust) - Amendment of 1998 Scheme

Contact name and details	Mr Richard Hood, Interim General Counsel and Company Secretary hoodr@methodistchurch.org.uk
Resolutions	58/1. The Conference receives the Report. 58/2. The Conference approves the amendment to Clause 13 of the 1998 Charity Commission Scheme governing Methodist Church House as detailed within paragraph 2 below.

1. The Conference's approval is sought to make revision to the 1998 Charity Commission Scheme governing the use of Methodist Church House (MCH).
2. Methodist Church House is held on permanent endowment trusts set out in a Charity Commission Scheme dated 4 March 1998 ("the Scheme"). The permission of the Charity Commission is required to alter the trusts. Accordingly, the approval of the Conference is required specifically in relation to an alteration to clause 15 of the Scheme.
3. Clause 15 forms part of the objects, being how income (eg rental income) and/or sale proceeds (should MCH ever be sold) are used. The suggested change would still allow the income to be used for mission overseas but also to be used more widely for Methodist Church purposes without the need repeatedly to obtain the Methodist Conference's permission to spend the income (eg rental income) on Methodist Church purposes that are not overseas.
4. For reference the current clause 15 of the 1998 Scheme and the amendments requested are:
15. *Benefit of Charity. Subject to payment of the expenses aforesaid the Managing Trustees shall apply the clear income, and at their discretion the whole or part of any residue of the said proceeds of sale which remains after the purchase of replacement property (as provided for above), for the furtherance of the purposes of the Methodist Church (as defined in Section 4 of the Methodist Church Act 1976), outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and subject thereto for such other of the said purposes of the Methodist Church as the said annual Conference may from time to time direct.*
5. The Charity Commission initially rejected this alteration. However, the Commission has indicated that it will now agree to it provided that the Conference approves it. This is on the basis that at the moment the income/sale proceeds of MCH could only be used for the purposes of the Methodist Church (as opposed to overseas) if the Conference agreed and this requirement for the Conference's agreement is being removed. The Commission

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does not consider that the Council's approval of the alteration to clause 15 would be sufficient.

6. For completeness, the alteration to the main object, clause 8 of the 1998 Scheme, has been accepted in principle by the Commission (based on the Council's approval alone because the members of the Council are the charity trustees under the 1998 Scheme and clause 8 does not refer to the Conference's permission) as follows:
8. *Use of property. The said land and buildings shall be used as a Mission House for the furtherance of the purposes of the Methodist Church (as defined in Section 4 of the Methodist Church Act 1976). outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland and subject thereto for the said purposes of the Methodist Church.*

*****RESOLUTIONS**

58/1. The Conference receives the Report.

58/2. The Conference approves the amendment to Clause 13 of the 1998 Charity Commission Scheme governing Methodist Church House as detailed within paragraph 2 of the Report.