

CONFERENCE BUSINESS COMMITTEE "D" Administration Division

CONVENER: Ruth Silverstone

QUESTION 28: What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Administration Division? *Report pp D1–26*

DECISIONS:

Administration:

1. The report is received.
2. Conference records its deep appreciation and congratulations to Jill van de Geer on completion of a successful term as General Secretary.
3. The Board of Administration notes that Conference has appointed David Bush as General Secretary and welcomes him to this task.
4. Conference records its appreciation to Frank Claridge for his offering of skill and commitment over many years to the work of the church.
5. Conference acknowledges the retirement of Noelene Allen on the completion of 23 years of loyal and dedicated service to the church.
6. That Conference adopts the provisions as set out in the report to allow Parishes and Boards to choose to rent the presbyters own home to meet their requirement to provide suitable accommodation for a full time Presbyter.
7. That Conference asks the Administration Division to prepare an information leaflet setting out the procedures and their implementation.
8. Membership of the Board of Administration for 2009 is: Bruce Anderson, Alan Bettany, Ruth Silverstone (Chairperson), Richard Blakeborough, Donald Biggs, David McGeorge, Geoff Peak, Nan Russell, Diana Tana, Paula Taumoepaeu, Pari Waaka and the General Secretary.

Stipend Paper:

9. The report is received.
10. Conference recommends that the Board of Administration clarify the purposes for which the Book Allowance may be used.
11. Parishes and boards be required to provide for the costs of a home internet connection (Broadband where available) for presbyters and other nominated personnel. To be added to the remuneration booklet.
12. Urgency must be given to exploring and monitoring the capacity of the Church's supernumerary fund. The Board of Administration should bring a report to Conference in 2009.
13. Conference asks the Board of Administration to explore loan and shared equity possibilities for the purchase of housing by presbyters and deacons, and bring a report to the Conference in 2009.
14. Presbyters be encouraged to consider their long term housing needs as early in their ministry as possible. The Board of Administration to implement.
15. That the process of setting stipends be changed as follows:
A parish in preparing a profile for stationing may indicate, with the approval of the Synod, Board of Ministry, and Tauwi Strategy or Hui Poari a stipend figure above or below that set by the Stipends Committee. **Referred back to the Stipends Committee**
16. The Board of Administration is asked to investigate fleet purchase of vehicles and the associated cost benefits.
17. Conference notes that the superannuation contributions would be based on the standard stipend figure set by the Stipends Committee and not on any amount negotiated by parishes, synod or boards above or below that figure. **Referred back to the Stipends Committee**
18. That Mission Resourcing develops 'multi entry points' for ministry candidates.
19. Conference recognizes the importance of ministry reviews as part of building a robust and appreciated ministry and asks Mission Resourcing to work with Synods to monitor and conduct reviews of ministry on a regular basis.
20. Conference in acknowledging that professional development is important to ministry requests the Director, Ministry Development to prepare guidelines to assist Synods and the Theological College to better facilitate the ongoing education of those in ministry by; replacing the present study grants available with parish funded professional development grants of, in the first year, \$1,800 The latter should be reviewed annually, becoming the major resource of funds for significant study and travel. **Referred to Travel and Study**
21. Mission Resourcing ensure that Parishes declare in their parish profile the housing they have available i.e.
 - Provided and already in existence with no right to negotiate any options.

- Provided but the parish is willing to negotiate other options.
 - Not provided, but provision made for rental up to the amount established following a church's agreed formulae.
22. Mission Resourcing ensure that Presbyters [or any layperson or deacons deployed to a parish by Conference] declare:
- That housing to the standard set by Conference will be provided.
 - They are willing to live in long term rental accommodation of a mutually agreed standard.
 - They will live in their own housing [address to be declared in the profile].
- Referred to Board of Administration**
23. Conference notes that the changes recommended in this report will improve the degree of flexibility for Cooperating Ventures and Joint Ventures when negotiating with incoming Presbyters. **Referred to Board of Admin**
24. That Ministry Education be directed by Conference to develop a more decentralized model of training for Ministry with greater emphasis on distance learning options and less focus on residential training.
25. In recognition of the diverse range of requirements within parishes, communities of faith, chaplaincies and boards, Ministry Education be directed to focus on preparing people from a wide range of ethnic, theological and academic backgrounds in Ministry Formation programs (both residential and by distance learning) for Methodist Ministry, and reduce the involvement of Trinity College in academic studies. Academic studies should become a pre-requisite to entering Ministry Formation training.
26. That a reimbursing subsidy for Medical/Health Insurance be made available to all Presbyters at a level to be set annually by the Board of Administration. **Be referred to Board of Administration**
27. Conference supports in principle the payment of a responsibility margin for Connexional Appointees and Synod Superintendents. In doing so Taiwi Strategy asks:
- (a) The Board of Administration to consider whether a responsibility margin should be; part of stipend or allowances.
 - (b) The Board of Administration to seek independent objective advice on scoping of responsibility margins.
 - (c) The Board of Administration to circulate a report on findings to Hui Poari and Taiwi Strategy and March Synods 2009.
 - (d) Synods to report to Taiwi Strategy on their capacity to fund these payments by August 2009.
- Referred to Stipends Committee**
28. Taiwi Strategy accepts and notes that changes recommended in the Stipends Review report will improve the degree of flexibility for cooperating ventures and joint ventures when negotiating with incoming presbyters. **Referred to Stipends Committee**

Methodist Connexional Property Committee:

29. That the report is received.
30. The Church Law be amended by deleting the present wording of Section 9 clause 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, and 3.4.3 as follows in italics.

Proposed Law

31. (3.1) *The consent of the Conference through the Board of Administration shall be obtained by all Parish Meetings, Incorporated Boards and trustees under the Methodist Model Trust Deed of 1887 for:*
- (a) *all proposed erections of, or enlargements and alterations, both exterior and interior, to Church buildings, including parsonages, which require building or resource consent;*
 - (b) *purchases or sales of Church property;*
 - (c) *leases of Church property for terms of seven years or more;*
 - (d) *mortgages of Church property;*
 - (e) *any borrowing or proposal to borrow funds sourced from outside New Zealand.*
32. (3.2.1) *Prior to the consent of the Conference being given to an applicant for any property proposal, the respective Synod or Regional Court shall be satisfied:*
- (a) *the proposal is in accord with established regional property strategy, is financially viable and that the applicant is able to repay any funds borrowed and any interest thereon;*
 - (b) *near the inception of the project of the appointment of an appropriately approved and qualified design professional in accordance with Methodist Connexional Property Committee guidelines as issued from time to time to assist with the strategy and planning, and to undertake the design, documentation, and contract administration of the project;*
 - (c) *that any Te Tiriti obligations of the Church have been resolved;*
 - (d) *that the land history has been researched for any sale or purchase of land.*

33. (3.3.1) *The proceeds from the sale of property shall be lodged with the Church Building and Loan fund in the name of the Parish and shall receive interest at the Church Building and Loan Fund's distribution rate as set from time to time.*
34. (3.4.1) *The Board of Administration shall consult with each Parish and that Parish's Synod at least once every 5 years to review ongoing ownership of property to ensure it is being appropriately used for mission of the Church and to meet stated Synod strategy, and to confirm that the funds from the sale of any property are being used in accordance with the Synod strategy.*
35. (3.4.2) *When property is sold that is no longer required to maintain Parish mission, and is not to be replaced:*
 - (a) *a portion of the proceeds of sale shall be contributed to the Development Fund Ministries. That portion shall be 15% unless otherwise agreed between MCPC, the Synod, and the Parish.*
 - (b) *after 5 years from the date of the sale, if the Parish has not ensured the use of the funds in the furtherance of the Parish mission and strategy, the Synod and Parish will determine if the funds are to be released to the Synod for its use in Synod strategy and mission.*

Clause 3.4.4 be renumbered 3.4.3.

QUESTION 28(a): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Investment Advisory Board? *Report pp D 29-30*

DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The Board for 2009 be: David Bush (Secretary), John Chittenden, David Cleal, Hugh Garlick (Chairman), Michael Greer, Chris Gregory, David Hunt. Jack Jenner, Norman Johnston, Kay Kendall, Manase Latu, Meleane Nacagilevu, Lorraine Parker, Geoff Peak, Jill van de Geer, Greg Wright (Executive Officer).

QUESTION 28(b): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Methodist Trust Association? *Report pp D31--36*

DECISIONS:

1. The report be received.
2. The Board for 2009 be: David Bush (Secretary), John Chittenden, David Cleal, Hugh Garlick (Chairman), Michael Greer, Chris Gregory, David Hunt. Jack Jenner, Norman Johnston, Kay Kendall, Manase Latu, Meleane Nacagilevu, Lorraine Parker, Geoff Peak, Jill van de Geer, Greg Wright (Executive Officer).

QUESTION 28(c): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Connexional Trusts? *Report pp D26-27*

Superannuation:

DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The Fund be closed to new members from 1 February 2010 (NB section 7.1.5 may apply to this resolution).
 - 7.1.5 *Subject to the provision of Clause 7.1.2 hereof, and in accordance with the provisions of Clause 7.1.1 hereof, the Conference shall have power to do whatever it from time to time considers appropriate for the mission work and order of the Methodist Church of New Zealand/Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa provided that no change shall be made affecting what the President, acting on the advice of the President's Legal Adviser, deems to affect constitutional matters or the rights and privileges of the Ministry or Laity, unless such changes shall have been previously submitted by the Conference to the Districts and Regions, and confirmed at the next succeeding Conference by a resolution passed by a consensus decision of not less than fifty-five per cent of the votes of the members present and voting.*
3. The necessary legal steps are put in place to effect this change.
4. Conference affirms the Board of Administration's intention to seek out alternative arrangements to the existing scheme.

General Purposes Trust Board:

DECISION:

5. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(d): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the PACT 2086 Trust?

Report p D29

DECISION:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(e): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the PAC Distribution Group?

Report p D28

DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The PAC Distribution Group for 2008 be: Gillian Laird, Arthur Davis, Margaret Giles, Tevita Finau, Elspeth Mclean, two to be appointed by the Conference, the Ex President, and the General Secretary.

QUESTION 28(f): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Robert Gibson Trust?

Report p D36

DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The Trust Board Members for 2009 be: Rex Ashley, Tony Bell, Preston Bulfin, John Chittenden, Susan Clarry, Reba Hunt, Geoff Marx, Christian Padrutt, Andrew Richardson, Margaret Springett, David Bush (General Secretary) and Bill Yateman (Chair / Farm Co-ordinator).

QUESTION 28(g): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Statistics?

Report pp N1-4

DECISION:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(h): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to the Wesley Historical Society?

Report p D37

DECISION:

1. The report is received.

QUESTION 28(i): What are the decisions of Conference on matters relating to Travel and Study?

Report pp D38-39

DECISIONS:

1. The report is received.
2. The Committee for 2009 be Don Biggs (Chair), Mary West (Secretary), Tovia Aumua, Liz Hopner, Prince Devanandan, and representation from Te Taha Maori And ex-officio (Corresponding or attending) , The Principal of the Theological College, Directors of Mission Resourcing, Co-ordinator Mission and Ecumenical, and the General Secretary. And up to two others as brought to conference or as approved thereafter by the President.

A. Memorial to Conference from Travel & Study Committee:

The Travel and Study Committee acknowledges with gratitude and thanks the endowment gift of \$100,000 from the PAC Distribution Group, and notes with joy that the group will look at adding to this amount if it possibly can in future years.

Decision:

1. Memorial is acknowledged.