

The Ministerial Session of the Conference adopted Notice of Motion M1

Notice of Motion M1: Ministerial Session of the Conference – Presidential Inquiries

The Ministerial Session of the Conference invites the Representative Session to 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 session notes 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 there is no connexional medical adviser who can make contact with the doctor of someone absent with illness, not least with stress or with a prolonged illness, a defect that has caused considerable difficulty in a number of circuits.

The Council is invited to appoint the following to undertake the task.

Working Party

Sir Alistair Norris Chair	Discipline Committee Chair and Justice of the High Court
The Reverend David G Deeks	Former Secretary of the Conference, considerable experience of the implementing the finds of Presidential Inquiries.
Mrs Susan R Howdle	Discipline Committee Chair, former Circuit Steward and Past Vice President. Extensive experience of appeals processes and legal tribunal work.
The Reverend Jenny Impey	District Chair, experience of requesting a Presidential Inquiry.
The Reverend Ian Johnson	Experience of working with circuits seeking to implement the recommendations of a Presidential Inquiry.
The Reverend Gareth J Powell Convenor	President's Assistant 2009-2010 and Acting Officer for Legal and Constitutional Practice