

Guidance: Stationing of Ministers and Deacons

Report

The Methodist Council, in collaboration with the Law and Polity Committee, has in hand work on the Standing Orders that govern the terms and conditions of service of ministers and deacons. However, in the light of recent legal proceedings (not involving the Methodist Church) the committee has considered the adequacy of the Methodist Church's procedures in respect of the extension of appointments. To ensure the Church follows best practice, the committee recommends that for the short term a small number of amendments be made to the guidance on this topic.

RESOLUTION

45/5 The Conference amends the Guidance on the Stationing of Ministers and Deacons (*CPD vol.2, Book 6, Part 2, Section 1*) as follows:

B. EXTENSIONS OF INVITATIONS - MINISTERS

(6)(e) . . . The minister concerned ***should have the opportunity to reply to any points made, and may*** address the meeting to express his or her views should he or she so desire, but should not be present for the ***any*** discussion ***immediately preceding the vote*** and the vote ***itself***, which must be by ballot. It would also be appropriate for members of the minister's family to offer to withdraw from the meeting before the ***such*** discussion and ***the*** vote takes ***take*** place. ***In discussion in the absence of the minister concerned, no new points should be made to which he or she is not given the opportunity to reply.***

C. EXTENSIONS OF INVITATIONS - DEACONS

(4)(e) . . . The deacon concerned ***should have the opportunity to reply to any points made, and could may*** address the meeting to express his or her views should he or she so desire, but should not be present for the ***any*** discussion ***immediately preceding the vote*** and the vote ***itself***, which must be by ballot. It would also be appropriate for members of the deacon's family to offer to withdraw from the meeting before the ***such*** discussion and ***the*** vote takes ***take*** place. ***In discussion in the absence of the deacon concerned, no new points should be made to which he or she is not given the opportunity to reply.***