

FAQ'S(Frequently Asked Questions)

1. In our Church, it would suit us better to vary from the procedures for setting up a Council or Executive. Can we do this?

Yes. The legislation sets out the normal way of proceeding, but it is not a straight-jacket for every situation. However, if you decide to vary from the legislation, it is vital that you keep a clear written record of exactly

- i) why you are varying from the norm;
- ii) what practice you are adopting;
- iii) how it has been agreed.

You should also seek advice from the Home Mission or Conference Office before proceeding.

2 Communication between circuits and the connexion

In the past oral reports given at Synod were heard by those present who had come to represent their circuit and those coming to present other reports. The assumption was that the Circuit representatives would relay the information from at least 21 reports to the local congregations. Unless the minister or representative had particular interest or commitment to so doing, this proved a less than effective means of giving or receiving information.

In order to seek to increase the flow of information between connexional bodies and local Circuits the Steering Group makes the following suggestions:

- a) that Circuit Superintendents give particular attention to completing the Home Mission Schedules each year which request postage, telephone and email addresses of Church and Circuit Secretaries. This will enable a database to be built which can be amended annually.
- b) The job description of Church Secretaries and Circuit Secretaries should contain the brief that they are willing to be copied with such materials as may need to be passed to Church Councils and Circuit meetings from Connexional bodies and that they will ensure that such items are on the agenda of the appropriate meeting.
- c) That Circuit Executives and Church Councils include on their agendas the question, "What information, decision or request has come from Connexional Committees?"
- d) Connexional Committee convenors should ensure that every meeting of the Committee there is on the Agenda, "What information needs to be given from this to local Churches and Circuits and how shall this be done" ? Any information to be conveyed to local Churches and Circuits should be forwarded to the Home Mission Department via email. The HMD will ensure distribution of the information as requested by the Committees via the database established in a) above.
- e) that where another person with particular responsibility for a section of work (ie MWI, DYCW, MMS(I) etc CSR) is named to the particular Department, that person may be the contact person in addition to the Circuit or Church Secretary

3. The Circuit / Society authority

The Circuit Executive has replaced the Quarterly Meeting, and therefore the body with ultimate authority on matters such as property permissions; grants; stationing etc. Serious differences of viewpoint, or perceptions of vision, or conflicts of interest, cannot be decided quickly and Circuit Executives and Societies need to give time to their resolution and be open to assistance from District Advisory or Pastoral teams as appointed by Synod. The decisions we take as the Church of Jesus Christ mean we defer to one another in love and seek the providential guidance and action of God, especially when opinions are sharply divided. Circuit Executives and Church Councils are charged with working co-operatively to ensure faithful worship and witness across the circuit