



Ministerial Benefits Committee

<i>Chairperson</i>	Bob Hunt
<i>General Secretary</i>	Rev David de Kock
<i>WA Benefund</i>	Robert Locke
<i>Members elected by Synod</i>	Rev Alan Jeffrey
<i>Appointed by General Secretary</i>	Michael Patchell
<i>Appointed by General Secretary</i>	Rev Mark Illingworth
<i>Staff Member assisting Committee</i>	Maureen Bourke

I. KEY FOCUS AREAS

On perusal of the current Minister's Handbook found that:

- The format and style of the existing policies vary considerably reflecting the approach adopted by the various authors.
- There were duplications in the sections of the policy reflecting the fact that different authors prepared different sections of the policy e.g. Housing
- Links to external websites need updating along with providing links to other websites
- Some policies were long overdue for review

The initial approach was to review each policy on an individual basis with the aim to update and put them into a consistent format. Given the amount of work required to undertake the reviews and future reviews the feasibility of basing WA's Minister's Handbook on other Synod's Handbook was investigated.

The review is now progressing using the Vic/Tas Synod's Minister Handbook as a basis. This will enable WA Synod to leverage off the expertise and experience of a much larger Synod. It would require all policies being used to be updated to ensure compliance with WA State Laws and Regulations and are appropriate to the Western Australian Synods unique features. This work is ongoing.

2. RECENT PROPOSAL AGREED BY SYNOD STANDING COMMITTEE

The Synod Standing Committee approved the following two proposals:

1. The Ministerial Stipends and Allowances effective from 1 January 2020.
2. Increase from 30% to 50% that ministers can salary sacrifice to the Ministerial Benefits Accounts from 1 January 2020

3. KEY CHALLENGES

Committee Chairperson - I have recently taken up the position of Chairperson of Presbytery and will not be available after to continue after 13 September 2019.



Committee Membership - The Committee has been short of 5 members elected by Synod. The issue of the membership of the Committee needs to be addressed. It may be that a different approach needs to be developed.

Approval Process – Any change to the Minister’s Handbook required the Chairperson of Ministerial Benefits Committee to make a recommendation to the Chairperson of the Placements Committee who then makes a recommendation to the Chairperson of the Synod Standing Committee for approval. This approval process needs to be reviewed along with the Committee Membership.

Bob Hunt
Chairperson
robert006166@gmail.com