



Presbyterian Church of Wales

MOVING FORWARD 3

MOVING FORWARD 3

1. INTRODUCTION

Following the decision taken at the 2005 General Assembly Moving Forward 3 was discussed at a United Association which was held at Capel y Morfa, Aberystwyth on Monday, December 5th 2005. 160 voted in favour of the proposals in the document Moving Forward 3, 11 were against with 5 abstentions. The document is now presented for confirmation by the General Assembly.

Some minor details may again change according to decisions taken at the 2006/2007 General Assembly but any changes made from now on will be included in the new Book of Order and Rules which will be published by January 2008. The new Book will not be published without prior consultation with the Association in the three Provinces.

2. THE PROPOSALS:

1. That the Constitutional Rule on page 6 Book of Order and Rules is to remain unchanged.

‘In order to safeguard the unity of the Church, and to secure uniformity in the procedure of its courts, it is hereby agreed that any changes in the constitution and rules of the Church or any addition to them (excepting at all times any change in the Declaratory Articles) shall be valid if they are approved by the Association in the South after remitting them to its Presbyteries, if it is so determined, and by the Association in the North, after remitting them to its Presbyteries, if it is so determined, and by the Association in the East after remitting them to its Presbyteries, if it is so determined, or if they are approved by a joint meeting of the Association and as subsequently approved by the Association meeting as a General Assembly by at least three fourths of the members present at each of the above mentioned meetings, and provided that the interval of time between the first and last of them shall not be greater than two years, and it is hereby agreed that any change in the Constitution and the Rules of the Church will not be valid if approved in any other way.’

2. Functions of General Assembly on page 19 Handbook of Order and Rules to remain unchanged.

The General Assembly will supervise matters relating to the whole Connexion, such as:-

- Mission
- Church Unity
- The Ministry and Candidates for the Ministry
- The Healing Ministry
- Education and Training of Candidates, Ministers, Elders and Lay Persons
- The Sunday School and Children's and Youth Service
- Publishing
- Social Issues
- Education
- Christian Aid
- Financial Matters, including the Connexional Contribution, Pension schemes
- The Insurance Trust
- Property
- Statistics
- The History of the Connexion
- The Davies Lecture

- Praise
- Publicity
- Child Protection, and any other matters from time to time entrusted to it

The General Assembly shall be the final authority in all these matters.

3. BOARDS

That the number of Boards be cut to three as proposed in Moving Forward 2. The Panel still agrees with the proposals made in Moving Forward 2 regarding the General Assembly Boards, and abides by the proposals made in Part 3 of Moving Forward 2 pages 5 to 27 i.e. the setting up of three Boards – Assembly Board, Life and Witness Board and Resources Board.

The General Assembly Board is proposing that the post of General Secretary be reviewed and a sub-committee be formed to formulate a report for the 2006 General Assembly. It was further proposed that the sub-committee considers the roles of all the salaried Officers in the Central Office to see who should serve as Secretaries of the three new Boards.

Boards, Departments and Panels

- i. Chair of Boards:** It is recommended that they should be chosen by the Nominations Committee, taking experience, expertise, language and gender into consideration.
- ii. Chair and Conveners of the Departments and Panels:** It is recommended that they should be chosen by the boards.
- iii. Relationship between Boards, Association and Presbyteries:** Messages and information will be exchanged in both directions. The Association and Presbytery representatives will be responsible for reporting back and explaining Board decisions, and also for bringing matters from the Association and Presbyteries to the notice of the Boards.
- iv. Terms of Appointment**
 - **Moderator of Assembly** – 12 months
 - **Officers of Boards and Committees** – 3 years, open to re-appointment for one succeeding term only
 - **Members of Boards and Committees** $\frac{1}{3}$ will retire after 2 years, $\frac{1}{3}$ after 3 years and $\frac{1}{3}$ after 4 years. Not open for reappointment for second term

CURRENT POSITION

At present the Connexion has 7 Boards (excluding the Davies Lecture Board) and approximately a further 25 Departments and Committees. The current Boards being:

The General Assembly Board
 The Ministerial Board
 The Mission Board
 The Christian Education Board
 The Church and Society Board
 The Finance and Properties Board
 The Communications Board

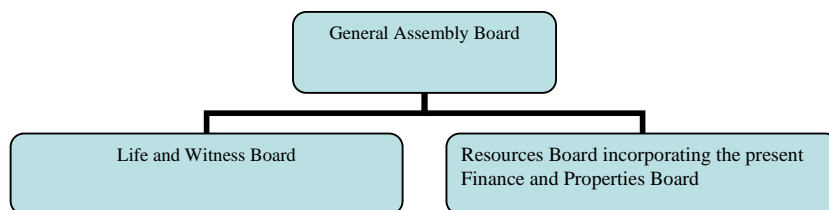
The work of the current structure falls broadly under three main headings.

- The Denomination's Corporate Role.
- The Life and Witness of the Church
- The Material Resources of the Connexion.

The proposals contained in Moving Forward reflect these three headings and this is why it is intended that three new Boards be formed.

PROPOSED BOARD STRUCTURES

The three areas of work identified above would form the basis of three new Boards with the structure being as noted below:



Trustees

The General Assembly Board needs to be on a higher level than the other two Boards as it is possible that members of the Assembly Board (or at least some of them) may act as Trustees for the Denomination. This fact is especially relevant should the Presbyterian Church of Wales become a registered rather than an exempt charity. At present advice regarding this matter is being sought through the Connexional Solicitor and the Charity Commissioners.

This could lead to two problems which will have to be discussed when the legal advice is received.

- i) Should it not be possible for legal reasons for serving ordained ministers to become trustees, the Assembly Board would not have a membership representative of all areas of the church.
- ii) People may be reluctant to serve on the Board if in doing so they automatically become a trustee of the denomination.

The group concluded that the possibility of a sub-group from within the Assembly Board serving as the trustees should be looked into.

Term of Office for Secretary of the Boards

The Finance Director and the Head of Property and Estates are permanent employees. They could be appointed from outside the Connexion.

If the General Secretary and the Secretary of the Life and Witness Board are ordained ministers from within the Presbyterian Church of Wales the post should be for a term of 5 years with the possibility of a second term of 5 years only.

Job Descriptions

The three Secretaries will work from the Central Office in Cardiff. The job descriptions for each post should be reviewed as part of the work currently being undertaken by the Office Monitoring Panel.

b) Treasurer

It is not envisaged that each Board would need a separate treasurer, as the Treasurer of the General Assembly and Finance Director would attend each Board meeting.

It may be necessary for certain Departments or Panels to have a separate Treasurer to comply with their constitution e.g. Coleg y Bala and Coleg Trefeca.

c) Chairpersons (see page 5)

COMMUNICATION AND INTERACTION BETWEEN BOARDS

This should happen mainly via dialogue between the Administrators of the three Boards who will all be based in the Central Office. A series of monthly meetings between the Secretaries and Moderator (including the Head of Property and Estates) should be instigated so that each is aware of any current issues or impending meetings which may be relevant to the other Boards.

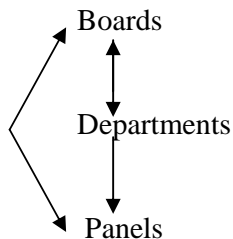
It is of paramount importance that each Board Administrator is present at the other two Board meetings.

The General Secretary and Moderator must be invited to attend all meetings of Boards, Departments and Panels.

The Past Moderator, the Present Moderator and the Moderator Elect will be members of the Boards.

DEPARTMENTS AND PANELS WITHIN THE BOARDS

There will be three levels within the structure



Departments will be formed within each Board and each Department representative will have voting rights on the Board to which it reports.

Panels will report back to Departments, or will undertake specific tasks and report directly to a Board without representation or voting rights. This distinction is particularly relevant in relation to the General Assembly Board. Each Board and Department should have the right to set up non-permanent panels to deals with specific matters.

THE THREE BOARDS

See below the Boards and their Departments and Panels, and also the relative structure of each Board.

a) **The General Assembly Board**

Two Departments Church and Society Department
 Pension Board Department

Eight Panels Audit Panel
 Office Monitoring Panel
 Publicity and Publishing Panel
 Worship and Doctrine Panel
 Nominations Panel
 Ecumenical Panel
 Historical Society (Panel)
 Davies Lecture Board (Panel)

b) **The Resources Board**

Four Departments Coleg y Bala Department
 Coleg Trefeca Department
 Applications Departments
 Policy and Performance Department

No Panels

The centers (i.e. the buildings) at Bala and Trefeca should be treated as an asset and therefore are the responsibility of the Resources Board.

The work of lay training and youth and children's work will form part of the work of the Life and Witness Board.

The two main Departments undertaking the work of the Board are the Applications Department and the Policy and Performance Department. These two Departments will deal with work previously undertaken by the Budget Committee, the Finance and Properties Department, Investment Trustees and Statistics Department.

c) **The Life and Witness Board**

Six Departments Candidates and Training Department (Separate Charity)
 Youth and Children's Service Department
 Ministries Department
 Women's Department
 Spirituality Department
 Worldwide Church Department

No Panels

Having looked at the original proposals in the Moving Forward document, it was decided, having considered the observations made by the Boards, that the Ministries Departments was too big and that it should be divided into three Departments:-

Ministries Department
Candidates and Training Department
Youth and Children's Service Department

FINANCING THE BOARDS

This matter has been discussed in the document Strategy for the Future. The Finance Director will need to restructure the Financial Management of the Connexion in the light of whether the restructuring is accepted in full or in part.

We must ensure that all items or funds under the care of the central Boards (or their Departments or Panels) are included in the Connexion's consolidated accounts.

In preparing this report exceptions have been noted and amendments need to be made after restructuring has taken place.

The Boards should be given a clear picture of their financial position (including that of any secondary funds) at each meeting.

LANGUAGE

All Committees should conduct their business bilingually with documents produced in both Welsh and English at all times.

Simultaneous translation should be arranged for every meeting.

NOMINATIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Each of the three Boards will have a cross section of representatives including one from each Presbytery.

The nominations panel would ensure that there is a balance between male and female, ordained and lay representatives as well as a suitable representation of young people. A representative from each Presbytery will also sit on three of the larger Departments.

- 1) Ministries Department
- 2) Church and Society Department
- 3) Children and Youth Service Department

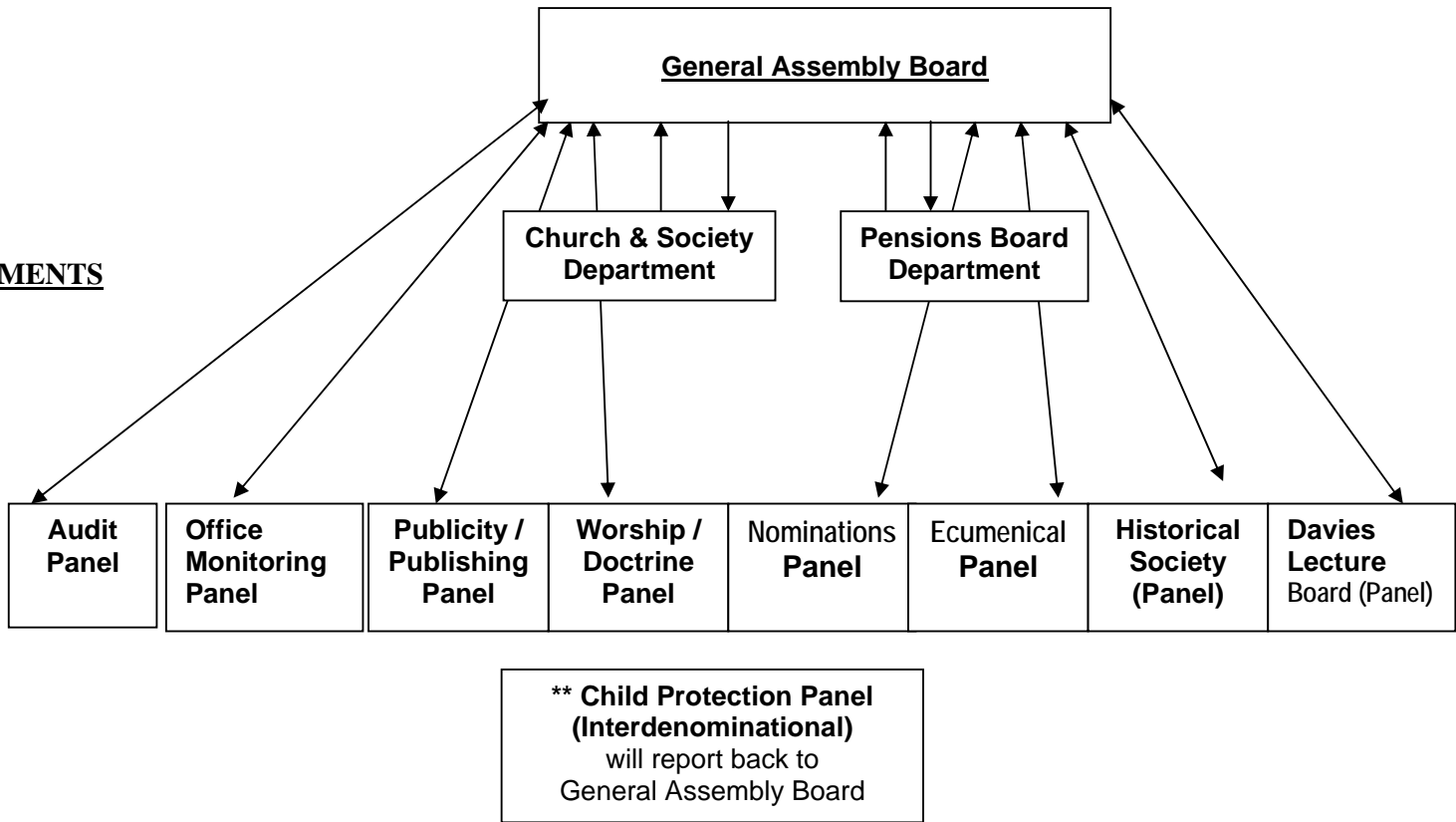
APPENDIX A

Board Structures

BOARD

DEPARTMENTS

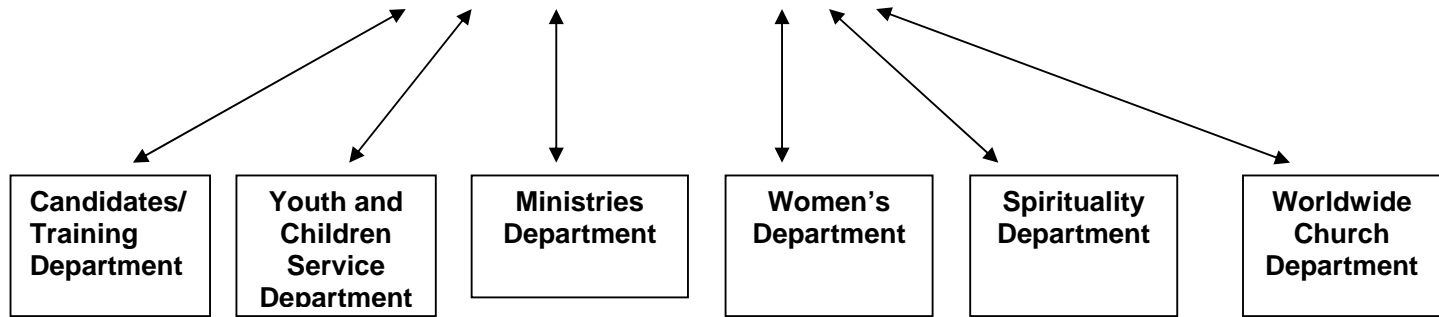
PANELS



BOARD



DEPARTMENTS



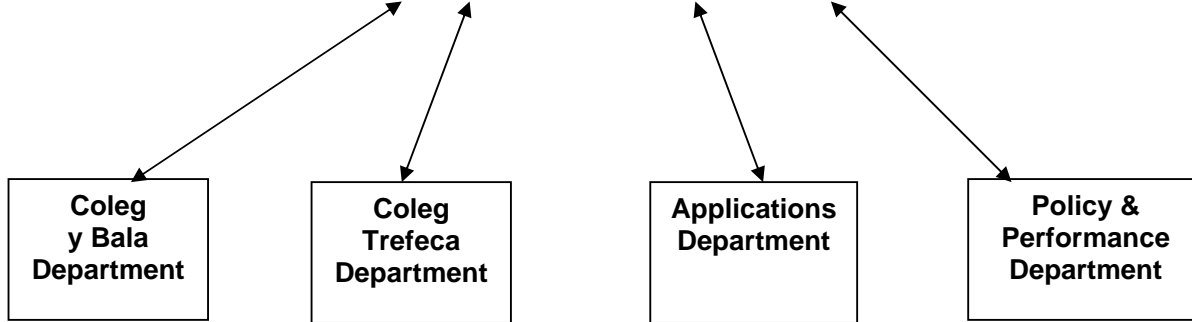
PANELS

Any Panels which may be needed within the above could be set up on an ad hoc basis. No permanent panels envisaged.

BOARD



DEPARTMENTS



PANELS

Any Panels which may be needed within the above could be set up on an ad hoc basis. No permanent panels envisaged.

APPENDIX B

This section sets out the following information about each Board, Department and Panel.

Frequency of meeting
 Membership (voting and non voting)
 Purpose
 Key Responsibilities

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD

Church and Society Department
 Pension Board Department
 Audit Panel
 Office Monitoring Panel
 Publicity and Publishing Panel
 Worship and Doctrine Panel
 Nominations Panel
 Ecumenical Panel
 Historical Society Panel
 Davies Lecture Board (Panel)

LIFE AND WITNESS BOARD

Candidates and Training Department
 Youth and Children's Service Department
 Ministries Department
 Women's Department
 Spirituality Department
 Worldwide Church Department

RESOURCES BOARD (including Properties Board)

Coleg y Bala Department
 Coleg Trefeca Department
 Applications Department
 Policy and Performance Department

All membership numbers excludes the Moderator of General Assembly and General Secretary as they are expected to be invited to attend all Committees. The constitution of each Committee will determine whether they have voting rights or not.

TITLE: GENERAL ASSEMBLY BOARD**Frequency:** 2/3 p.a**Membership:** 35 (approx)

Voting: 14 x Presbyteries
 3 x Association in the three provinces
 1 x Church and Society Department
 1 x Pension Board Department
 2 x Resources Board
 2 x Life and Witness Board
 Assembly Moderators
 Connexional Treasurer

Non Voting: Finance Director, Head of Properties and Estates, Connexional Solicitor, Secretary of Life and Witness Board, Assembly Minute Secretary

Purpose: To formulate policy and give direction to the entire Connexion. To act as the Assembly's Executive Committee and to be the trustees of the Church, to guide and help other Boards to conform to Church's policies and strategies re work and witness.

Key Responsibilities:

- The General Assembly and its Agenda.
- Receiving messages from the Presbyteries and the Association in the three Provinces.
- Overseas links (CWM)
- Ecumenical matters
- Church and Society
- Publicity and Publishing
- Approval of accounts
- Management of the Pension Fund
- Child Protection

TITLE: PENSIONS BOARD (DEPARTMENT)**Frequency:** 2/3 p.a.**Membership:** 12**Voting:** All nominated Trustees

Non Voting: Finance Director, Representative of Pension Administrators, Investment Managers, External Auditors

Purpose: To act as Managing Trustees of the Pension Fund and to administer the fund in accordance with its rules and relevant legislation.

Key Responsibilities:

- As defined in the Pensions Board rules and relevant legislation.

TITLE **CHURCH AND SOCIETY DEPARTMENT**

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership 18 Approx (one from each Presbytery)

Voting All nominated members

Non Voting None

Purpose: To consider the Connexional response to social, national and international issues.

Key Responsibilities:

- As above (to include responding to educational matters)
- To ensure that each Presbytery has an active Church and Society Committee to deal with issues from the Board

TITLE: **AUDIT PANEL**

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership: 6-7 Approx

Voting: 4 x current members (not to be members of any other Central Committee)

Non Voting: Finance Director, Connexional Treasurer

Purpose: To review all aspects of the Connexion's financial affairs and policies.

Key Responsibilities:

- Supervise suitability of accounting policies
- Meet to receive management report from external auditors
- Review and investigate any matter raised by external auditors
- Advise and assist Finance Director in producing appropriate financial information

TITLE:**OFFICE MONITORING PANEL****Frequency:**

as necessary

Membership:

6 approx. with appropriate expertise in business

Voting:

All members

Non Voting:

None

Purpose:

To provide a clear link between the Trustees and the Central Office.

Key Responsibilities:

- To assist the General Secretary with matters pertaining to the running of the Central Office.
- Job descriptions
- Evaluation policy

TITLE:**PUBLICITY/PUBLISHING PANEL****Frequency:**

2 p.a.

Membership:

8 approx. with the necessary expertise

Voting:

All members

Non Voting:

Specialists may be invited from time to time (incl. Gwasg y Bwthyn – Publications Officer)

Purpose:

To ensure effective communication within the Connexion and promote publicity and links with public

Key Responsibilities:

- Recommend editors for Connexional Publications
- Give consideration to and make necessary arrangements for publishing books
- Content and format of Voice of the Assembly
- Connexional Exhibitions
- Website
- The Goleuad and Treasury

Non Voting:	Secretary of Cytun Secretary of Commission of Covenanting Churches
Purpose:	Promote cooperation between the Connexion and the other Churches at all levels
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote discussions regarding church unity in accordance with the resolutions of General Assembly and with the Constitution. • Appoint and receive reports from representatives on inter-church bodies. • Oversee and promote local co-operation between denominations through Presbyteries • Receive and implement messages from other ecumenical bodies according to the decisions made by the Assembly Board and the General Assembly.

TITLE: **HISTORICAL SOCIETY (PANEL)**

Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	8 approx. (incl. Editor of Historical Magazine)
Voting:	All Members
Non Voting:	None
Purpose:	To research and preserve the history of the Connexion
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, catalogue and safeguard historical material • Prepare Historical Magazine • Arrange Historical Society meeting at the General Assembly

TITLE: **DAVIES LECTURE BOARD (PANEL)**

Frequency:	1 p.a.
Membership:	8
Voting:	All members
Non Voting:	None
Purpose:	To administer the conditions of the Davies Lecture Trust

- Key Responsibilities:**
- Supervise finances of the Board.
 - Suggest name of future lecturers to be confirmed by Assembly.

TITLE: **LIFE AND WITNESS BOARD**

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership: 38 approx

Voting: 14x Presbytery
3x Association in the three provinces
6x Department
Moderators of Assembly
Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Training, Director of Youth and Children's Service, Centre Manager at Trefeca

Non Voting: Finance Director, Minute Secretary

Purpose: To promote the life and witness of the Connexion by coordinating the work currently undertaken by the Ministerial, Mission and Christian Education Boards.

- Key Responsibilities:**
- The Pastoral Ministry (its role and place in the Church).
 - Promote the Mission of the Church
 - Assist and co-ordinate Presbytery and Association ventures in Ministry and Mission
 - Youth and children's work.
 - Lay training.
 - Training of candidates and ministers (in-service training)
 - Chaplaincies.
 - Christian Aid
 - Develop links with the World-Wide Church
 - Aspects of spirituality

TITLE: **CANDIDATES AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT**
(Separate Charity)

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership: Approx. 12 to include:
Trustees, Examiner, Director of Training, Centre Manager at Trefeca, Director of Youth and Children's Work, Life and Witness Board Secretary

Voting:	Nominated members
Non Voting:	None
Purpose:	To be responsible for all aspects of training within the Connexion. To supervise, direct and consider prospective candidates for the ministry and to provide suitable in-service training of Ministers, lay workers and Elders.
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examinations for candidates • Pastoral Studies • Interview and recommend candidates • Lay training • In-service training.

TITLE: **YOUTH AND CHILDREN SERVICE DEPT.**

Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	20 approx. (One from each Presbytery), Director of Training, Centre Manager at Trefeca, Director of Youth and Children's Work, Children's Officer
Voting:	Nominated Members
Non Voting:	none
Purpose:	To promote and organise work with children and young people within the Connexion
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare courses and resources. • Promote the views of children and young people within the Connexion. • Links with Coleg y Bala • Ensure that all Presbyteries hold activities for children and young people. Co-ordinate these activities • Organise the Youth Assembly • Consider applications for youth and children's workers

TITLE: **MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT**

Frequency:	2/3 p.a.
Membership:	14-16 (one from each Presbytery) Secretary of Life and Witness Board

Voting:	All nominated members
Non Voting:	none
Purpose:	To consider matters pertaining to pastorates, applications for workers and chaplaincies.
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider applications from pastorates for ministry • Community Ministry • Chaplaincy policy • Consider applications from Presbyteries for lay and mission workers • To liaise with Presbyteries and to encourage and assist in the development of Ministry and Mission within the Presbyteries

TITLE: **WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT**

Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	Approx. 18 (One per Presbytery) Women's Work Organizer
Voting:	All nominated members
Non Voting:	none
Purpose:	To continue to promote women's work within the Connexion
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange Women's Rallies. • Decide on distribution of collections. • Promote the formation of local women's fellowships.

TITLE: **SPIRITUALITY DEPARTMENT**

Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	8-10
Voting:	All nominated members
Non Voting:	none

Purpose: To emphasise the importance of the spiritual aspect within the Church such as meditation, prayer and personal devotion.

Key Responsibilities:

- Prepare resources.
- Ministry of Healing.
- Praise Panel.
- Church stewardship
- Prayer Handbooks

TITLE: **WORLDWIDE CHURCH DEPARTMENT**

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership: 8-10
Secretary of the Life and Witness Board

Voting: All nominated members

Non Voting: none

Purpose: To promote the witness of the Christian Church in a broader geographical sphere.

Key Responsibilities:

- Overseas mission.
- Overseas missionaries
- Christian Aid
- International conferences on Mission and Ministry.
- Overseas Links

TITLE: **RESOURCES BOARD**

Frequency: 2 p.a.

Membership: 35 approx
14x Presbytery
3x Association in the three provinces
1x Bala Department
1x Trefeca Department
1x Applications Department
1x Policy and Performance Department
Solicitor, Assembly Moderators
Chief Statistician. Connexional Treasurer
Secretary of Life and Witness Board

Voting: All nominated members

Non Voting: Finance Director, Head of Property and Estates

Purpose:	To coordinate the work of Connexion in respect of its material and financial assets.
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Connexional Levy. Hold annual consultation with the Association in the three Provinces before setting the levy. • Investments • Property matters • Financial Policy • Connexional Centres • Statistics
<u>TITLE:</u>	<u>COLEG Y BALA DEPARTMENT</u>
Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	According to Constitution
Voting:	According to Constitution
Non Voting:	Director of Youth and Children's Work Head of Property and Estates Coleg y Bala Bursar
Purpose:	To administrate Coleg y Bala in line with the Constitution of Coleg y Bala as registered charity.
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a centre for children and young people from Wales and the World. • Encourage Christian Mission among children and young people.

<u>TITLE:</u>	<u>COLEG TREFECA DEPARTMENT</u>
Frequency:	2 p.a.
Membership:	According to Constitution
Voting:	According to Constitution.
Non Voting:	Finance Director Head of Property and Estates Centre Manager at Trefeca
Purpose:	To administrate Coleg Trefeca in line with the Constitution of Coleg Trefeca as a registered charity.

- Key Responsibilities:**
- Provide a centre to promote the Christian faith in Wales and the World.
 - Promote the work of lay training within the Connexion.

TITLE: **APPLICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

Frequency: 5/6 p.a.

Membership: 14 approx.
3 x Association in the three provinces
Connexional Treasurer
Finance Director
Head of Property and Estates
(The membership of this Committee can change because of decisions to be made by the General Assembly and the Association in the three Provinces.)

Voting: All nominated members

Non Voting: Finance Director,
Head of Property and Estates

Purpose: To consider applications pertaining to property and finance from Presbyteries, the Associations in the three Provinces, Boards and Departments.

Key Tasks:

- Strategy Funds and Release of Capital Applications
- Applications for loans previously considered by the Loan Funds of the Association in the three provinces (if the Loan Funds are combined merged as one Fund)
- Application to Sell Property (and distribution of proceeds)
- The annual Connexional Contribution and its component budgets.

TITLE: **POLICY AND PERFORMANCE DEPARTMENT**

Frequency: 2/3 p.a.

Membership: 12 approx. the services of experts will be sought in this field.
Connexional Treasurer
Finance Director,
Head of Property and Estates
Chief Statistician

Voting:	All nominated members
Non Voting:	Finance Director, Head of Property and Estates
Purpose:	To formulate and review all Connexional policy in respect of Finance, Property, Investments and compilation of data.
Key Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment performance review • Central Properties Policy • Rules regarding sale of property and distribution of funds. • Statistics. • To liaise and discuss with Presbyteries their future needs regarding buildings and advise as appropriate.

4. THE ASSOCIATION

The functions of the Association in the three provinces (see page 14 Handbook of Order and Rules) remain unchanged.

It is the responsibility of the Association, within its province, to consider:-

- All matters re the churches, the District Meetings and the Presbyteries.
- Receive Candidates for the Ministry and supervise their course in conjunction with the Training and Candidates Department.
- Ordain Ministers who are presented to it by the Presbyteries and who receive its approval.
- Hear cases and, if appropriate, suspend or dismiss Ministers with complaints proved against them.
- Receive and give consideration to appeals.
- Receive and give consideration to messages from the Presbyteries.
- Receive and consider messages from and for the General Assembly.
- Have charge of its funds.
- Supervise doctrine, mission and discipline.
- Ensure that Connexional policies are implemented.

5. PRESBYTERIES

Functions of the Presbyteries (page 13 Handbook of Order and Rules) will remain unchanged.

The Presbytery shall:

- Supervise the work of the churches within its boundaries.
- Interview ministers and elders concerning their spiritual experience and their experience in their office.
- Supervise the election of elders in the churches.
- Receive and supervise lay preachers who are not elders.

- Hear cases and discipline elders, candidates, preachers and lay preachers against whom complaints are proven.
- Consider appeals.
- Receive and give consideration to messages from the District Meeting and refer messages to the Association.
- Supervise the work of the Sunday School, youth and children's work.
- Organise and supervise mission work within the Presbytery.
- Supervise the course and the work of Candidates for the Ministry, confer with them at least once a year and recommend Candidates to the Association for ordination.
- Supervise calls to Ministers, their induction and their release from pastorates.
- Supervise the order and maintenance of the Ministry.
- Consider uniting churches.
- Take care of all Connexional interests, supervise buildings and all financial obligations arising
- Ensure that all the requirements of the Association are met.
- Confer with and ordain those elected to be elders in the churches of the Presbytery and arrange an Open Session for their ordination.
- Every Presbytery shall annually forward to Gwasg Pantycelyn (or its successor) by the end of year a list of the secretaries of churches and their addresses, stipulating the number of Association Reports to be sent to each church.

The Panel proposes that the number of Presbyteries should be kept to 14 as seen in Moving Forward 2.

Presbytery	Membership	Churches	Reps to GA
1 Môn	2947	66	6
2 Arfon	3374	29	7
3 Llyn ac Eifionydd a Gorllewin Meirionnydd	3658	77	8
4 Dyffryn Conwy a Dwyrain Meirionnydd	3359	59	7
5 Dyffryn Clwyd	3653	46	8
6 Wrecsam, Flint, Lerpwl, Manceinion	1869	34	4
7 Trefaldwyn Uchaf a Threfaldwyn Isaf	1122	49	3
8 De a Gogledd Aberteifi a Gogledd Penfro	3630	87	8
9 De a Gogledd Myrddin	2868	70	6
10 Gorllewin a Dwyrain Morgannwg a Llundain	2158	60	5
11 North Wales Coast, Cheshire Flint and Denbigh, Lancashire and Cheshire	2029	38	5
12 Brecon, Radnor, Hereford, Montgomery and Salop	1423	51	3
13 South Pembroke, Glamorgan West	998	37	3
14 Glamorgan East and Gwent	1731	62	4
Total	34819	765	77

The Panel proposes that the Presbyteries should have direct representation on the Boards and some Departments. Adequate provision must be given at all times to enable people to use both languages. Where the appointed person cannot attend, a deputy should attend in his/her place. It

is proposed that the Association in the three provinces has three representatives on the three Boards.

- **Functions of the District Meetings.** The Presbyteries will decide on the nature and roles of the District Meetings (see Moving Forward 2 page 32 item 8 Districts)

The new Presbyteries will decide on the function and boundaries of District Meetings within their area. Some Presbyteries may choose to forego the District Meeting altogether whilst others will wish to grant considerable authority to the District Meeting according to local need and the geographical size of the Presbytery. The District Meeting should not be thought of in its old form but as a new unit that will maintain close links between local churches and encourage ministry and mission. In order to avoid a feeling of estrangement the District Meeting could play an important role in encouraging prayerful fellowship between churches and in strengthening pastoral care for one another. These District Meetings would have no authority to take decisions, unless the Presbytery decides otherwise, but rather to discuss resolutions and items from Connexional courts and to work towards strengthening the relationship between the churches within their Presbytery. Even if Districts were given functions by Presbytery, all authority relating to Finance would remain with the Presbytery.

PROPOSED PRACTICAL CHANGES

The Panel makes the following proposals:

- That the General Assembly is held in September rather than July.
- That resolutions and messages are sent down directly from the General Assembly to the Presbyteries for discussion and decisions taken as necessary. These decisions then to be sent back to the General Assembly through the Association in the three provinces meeting in May/June. A copy of any messages to be sent to the officers to the Association in the three provinces
- If any urgent matter arises, the Association Executive Committee could consider the matter and forward it directly to the General Assembly Board after consultation with the General Secretary.
- The Presbytery Committees should reflect the Boards of the General Assembly i.e. the Presbyteries should have
 - a. An Executive Committee
 - b. A Resources Committee
 - c. A Life and Witness Committee
 - d. A Church and Society Committee

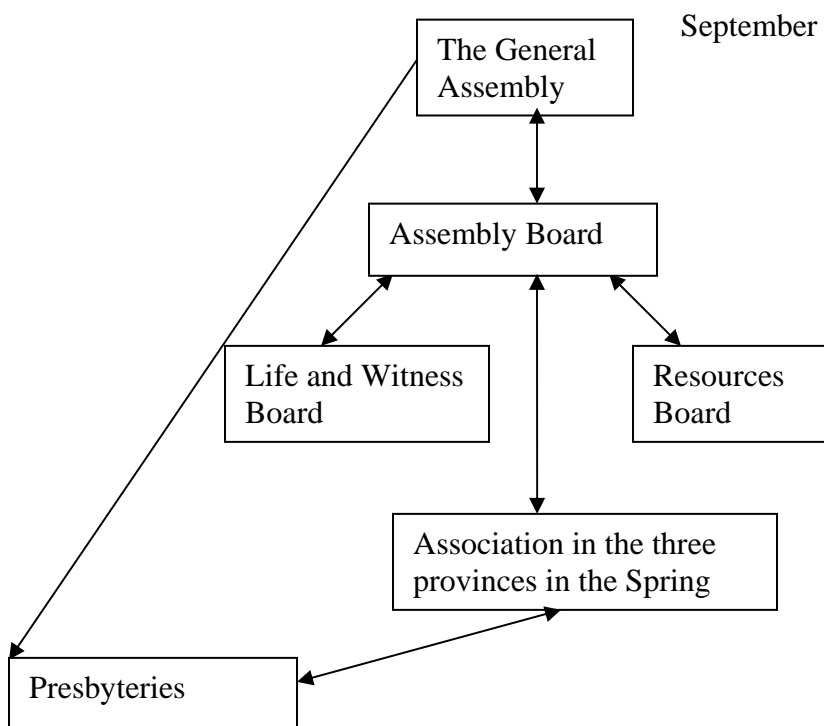
The Association in the three provinces should have at least two Committees – an Executive Committee and a Resources Committee. It would be the responsibility of the Association to decide what other committees were needed.

- The Association Resources Committee in the three provinces would have the authority to act and could send applications for sale of property, release of capital, or release of funds from Strategy Funds to the Applications Department of the Assembly Resources Board. The Department would then take decisions on applications. It is foreseen that the Department would meet approximately 5 times per year.

- The relevant General Assembly Officers would be invited to the Association Committees in the three provinces when this desirable and to at least one meeting of each Presbytery annually i.e. if the number of Presbyteries is curtailed to 14 then this will ensure more efficient coordination between the central Church and the local churches.
- It is difficult to justify the need for the autumn meeting of the Association in the three provinces. The North and South hold a one day session. Very often what has already been passed in the General Assembly is regurgitated at these meetings. It would be more beneficial if these discussions took place at Presbytery level. However if the Association in the three provinces wish to hold a one day meeting in the autumn, it could be a more spiritual meeting, an opportunity to pray together, to meditate together and discuss matters with the three General Assembly officers present. It would be an opportunity to prayerfully seek a vision and plan for the future. Each Association will have to decide on its pattern of meetings, and the viability of holding a one day meeting.

CONCLUSION

This therefore is the structure being proposed.



- The General Assembly to meet in September
- The Boards to meet twice a year
- The Assembly Board to hold a meeting between the Association in the three provinces' meetings and the General Assembly in order to deal with messages and resolutions etc to be sent to the General Assembly.

- The Association in the three provinces to meet once a year – May/June. If they so desire, they can meet for one day in the autumn for meeting of a spiritual nature, without any discussion of business matters.
- The Presbyteries to have direct representation on the Boards and Departments.
- Presbytery committees to correspond to the Assembly Boards. The Association in the three provinces to decide what Committees are appropriate.
- It is suggested that Presbyteries meet at least 4 times per year.
- Messages and resolutions to be sent directly to the Presbyteries from the General Assembly and to be sent back through the May/June Association through the General Assembly through the Assembly Board. Copies of the messages and the resolutions to be sent to the Clerk of Association in the three Provinces, but any response to be sent back through the Association in the three Provinces.
- Messages to go from Presbytery to the General Assembly through the Association.
- If the Presbyteries send in applications directly to the Boards e.g. re calling of ministers, employing other workers, they should be sent to the appropriate Board through the General Secretary. The General Secretary should consult with the Clerk of Association in the three Provinces before presenting any applications to the Boards.
- The Presbyteries would have the right to decide on the nature and roles of the District Meetings.

The next steps

1. These proposals will be presented to this year's General Assembly after a vote has been taken at the United Association.
2. If these proposals are finally agreed in the 2006 General Assembly it will be the responsibility of the General Secretary to hold discussions with the Presbyteries and the Boards and to facilitate the amalgamation of Presbyteries and Boards. The New Order and Rule Book will also be produced to reflect the decisions of the 2006/07 General Assemblies. The Rule Book will be presented to the Association in the three provinces for their approval and then for final approval in the 2007 General Assembly. If the General Secretary reports to the General Assembly in 2007 that all discussion have taken place and all arrangements finalised then it will be possible for the new Boards to functions after the General Assembly 2007 and the new Presbyteries from January 2008.

Ifan Rh. Roberts, General Secretary

June 2006