

PRESS STATEMENT

29 September 2006

The Commissioner of Charities is satisfied with explanations from the Methodist Church of Singapore

1. The Commissioner of Charities (COC) has queried the Methodist Church of Singapore (MCS) on the various issues pertaining to the remuneration of the Bishop of MCS.
2. The COC has reviewed the clarifications and documents submitted by the General Conference Executive Council of MCS. The COC has not found any prima facie evidence of fraud or misuse of funds. However, there were some lapses in the administrative procedures.
3. The COC noted that the Bishop's remuneration was determined by the Chairman of the Council of Episcopacy. This decision should have been formally approved by the General Conference which appoints the Council. This was not done at that point in time. Nonetheless, the COC is satisfied that this was an administrative lapse, and that the Bishop was not involved in any way in the determination of his remuneration package.
4. The COC noted that the Bishop has been paid according to the terms of appointment in his employment contract. The COC is of the view that MCS's decision to ratify the remuneration package is an internal matter which the Governing body of the Church has the proper authority to resolve.

5. Following the discovery of the mistakes made, MCS conducted two reviews on the remuneration of its Bishop as well as the decision making process. Based on these reviews, the recommendations of the MCS General Conference Executive Council were subsequently discussed and approved by the General Conference, in the absence of the Bishop.

6. The COC noted that MCS has expended considerable effort to investigate and resolve the matter. The COC is satisfied with the explanations given by MCS and the steps it has taken to improve its internal processes. The COC has therefore decided that there is no cause for further action.